JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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5s.

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JOHN BULL.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Congratulations to the Government on the retention of High Peak. It was a daring experiment, but, as we said last week, Mr. Asquith "knew something."

At the time of his appointment, few people knew, or had even heard of Mr. Partington. Now he will be famous as the man who kept his seat.

There was a genuine ring about the Land demonstration. The truth is, that stripped of all the Valuation technicalities—which ought to have been dealt with by a preliminary measure—the Land taxes are popular with the people. "Ungotten minerals," however, will never do. But, by the way, what *had* Dr. Clifford to do with the matter?

The alleged "Breach of Privilege" by the Duke of Norfolk in writing a note to his friend, Mr. Profumo, expressing a hope for his success, is all moonshine. If there were any breach of privilege it consisted of the *publication* of the letter, and that was the act of Mr. Profumo and not of the Duke. In our anxiety to come to grips with the Peers, we must not make fools of ourselves.

What is this?—the *Star* actually agreeing with our attitude in the House on the matter! We *are* getting respectable!

The Lord Chief Justice says that as the result of forty years' experience at the bar and on the bench, he is satisfied that 90 per cent. of the crime of the country is due to drink. Will his lordship favour us with the statistics? We have run over in our minds all the serious cases of the past year, and can find no trace of drink behind them. Lord Alverstone should be above stooping to this sort of piffle.

It is just as well that there should be a lull in the Budget Debate. Things were approaching a scandal—the Bill being forced through the House by the simple process of physical exhaustion. It has been an exhibition of Party Government *in profundis*, members lying about, all over the place, dozing and snoring, to be awakened every half-hour by the division bell, and then wandering, half-dazed, through the Lobbies, utterly unconscious of, and indifferent to, the question at issue—simply following the direction of the Whips' fingers—repeating the process throughout the night—ultimately staggering home, with the milk, satisfied that they have done good work for their country. The whole thing is a screaming farce—except in the case of the old men. With them it is a tragedy.

To such an old man we gave up our own corner seat the other afternoon, in order that he might more comfortably sleep. He had been up the whole of the previous night, and was ready, he said, for a second edition. "You see," he observed, "I was elected as a supporter of the Government, and my people expect me to vote with them on everything. *Otherwise, I should lose my seat.*" And as we looked at his sunken eyes, his wan face, his twitching jaw, and listened to his empty party platitudes, we marvelled at the mental obfuscation which enabled him to think that he had any real place in the political economy of the nation. We were relieved when, having referred to the figures of the last election, we discovered that in a few months he will most probably be relieved of his "Parliamentary duties," and thus set free to go to bed at night, like a sensible man, and conserve for the benefit of his family circle whatever may be left of a shattered constitution.

Wasn't it Mr. Lloyd George who once said that no good work was ever done in the House of Commons after midnight? Where is Mr. Leif Jones? Won't he introduce an Early Closing Bill for Parliament? Such a measure is much more needed than a Licensing Bill—if not for the morality, at least for the *morale* of the nation.

We are glad to be assured that the Board of Agriculture will not sanction the ridiculous regulation of the Allotments Committee of the Tonbridge Council forbidding any gardening "other than the cutting of vegetables" on Sundays. Would the Committee rather see the men in the public-house than working in their little gardens? We must have a branch of the John Bull League at Tonbridge.

"What does Mr. Lloyd George say to a tax on hat-pins?" Thus one of our readers. "There is millions in it," he adds hopefully. Certainly the hat-pin, if we may believe recent Press reports, is more dangerous to the average citizen than the drink traffic; more dangerous even than the trade in bottled minerals—which, by the way, could be valued for taxation purposes more easily than ungotten minerals.

What do our friends think of the following letter, sent by the head of a preparatory school to one of our readers who has committed the unpardonable crime of owning licensed premises?

> On considering the matter I think it would be best for your boy not to come to our school, as I know that the parents of some of our pupils have very strong objections to a public-house, and would not allow their children to be with one who comes from an inn.
>
> I am also afraid that as he gets a little older, he would have rather a hard time with the other children.

Strangely enough, the letter comes from *Coventry*. We wonder whether the writer would have refused the other Child who came from a stable, "because there was no room in the inn"!

The Birmingham police must be hard up for a job. One of their body has recently distinguished himself by adopting the guise of a clergyman and thus capturing, red-handed, a wicked street bookmaker. We have addressed a few words to the Chief Constable upon this brilliant exploit, and all we desire to add here is that it might be worth the experiment for a few of the clergy to disguise themselves as street bookmakers and try to convert their temporary colleagues to a better life—even if such a course did involve the risk of arrest and fine. But probably, no "beak" would swallow the story.

Which reminds us that we once met a clergyman of our acquaintance—a good-meaning, simple-minded man—down at Monte Carlo. He was staying at Nice for the benefit of his health, and had run over to the wicked place "just to have a look round," as he put it. We persuaded him to extend his studies to the interior of the Casino—where we endeavoured to enlighten him as to the mysteries of roulette. He looked on, spell-bound, as we planked our money down, and then, timidly drawing a five-franc piece from his pocket, asked our advice as to "what he should do with it—just to be able to say that he had actually tested the game." We suggested putting it on "32," and lo! it came to pass that "32" turned up. Our reverend friend collected his 180 francs, with trembling hands, and declaring that it was all "very remarkable" (no suggestion of depravity, you observe), hurried out of the room. We subsequently learned that those 180 francs enabled him to prolong his holiday by a week. But the matter is never mentioned in the little village to whose spiritual welfare he still ministers.

Members of Parliament receive all kinds of communications at the House; but we were somewhat shocked one day last week when the messenger handed us the following telegram:—

> This meeting of 5,000 Northampton citizens calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to prevent that inhuman monster, the Tsar of Russia, from visiting this country and thus save us from the disgrace of countenancing the brutal massacres, tortures, and outrages which have been perpetrated by the Tsar and his supporters to suppress the revolutionary movement in favour of the constitutional freedom that we enjoy in England to-day.

Let us hope that the result of a little personal intercourse with the King may be to make the Russian monster less inhuman. In any case, it is worth risking the experiment.

Applications are invited by the Willesden Urban District Council for the appointment of a junior clerk in the Accountant's Department at a commencing salary of £30, rising by £7 10s. yearly to £80 per annum. Candidates must be between 18 and 28 years, but probably the appointment would best suit a Willesden lad of 18. He would be able to live at home with mother.

One of our readers recently had to suspend a workman owing to depression of business, meaning to take him on again as soon as trade improved. "He is a good, clean, sober man," says his late employer, "and his misfortune is the greater in that his wife has recently been confined." Presumably, the poor fellow has got a bit in arrear with his rent, and this is the printed notice which he has received, with a demand at the foot for immediate payment:—

> WARNING TO RUN-AWAY TENANTS.
>
> *Landlord's Action Against a Tenant Under Act Geo. II. 19.*
>
> Arthur Farrenden, one of the tenants of the owners of this estate was summoned for fraudulently removing his goods from premises occupied by him while rent was in arrear and to avoid a distress being levied on them. The rent collector deposed to the Court that the defendant was in arrear with his rent and was told that a distress would be made unless the amount was paid. A few days afterwards the tenant removed his goods, he told the Court he did that to reduce the expense and to live in cheaper rooms. After the case had been proved by the collector, the Bench said the law must be obeyed, tenants must suffer the consequence if they fraudulently removed while rent was in arrear, and directed the tenant Farrenden to pay £5, double the value of the goods removed, and 7s. 6d. costs in 14 days, and in default the tenant to be committed to prison for 14 days' hard labour.

Well may our correspondent ask, "Is not it disgraceful that an honest man in adversity should be insulted in this manner?" It is indeed. But what about Arthur Farrenden? If he will communicate with us, we will show him how to get damages for libel out of that landlord.

We are not sure that we quite like the idea of Jaggers or any boy messenger being sent for to "button-up" ladies at 6 p.m., and "unbutton" them at 11 p.m. Jaggers must be almost grown up by now. And the others are not all so very young.

Southend's historical reproach, its melancholy miles of odoriferous mud-flats, has for the nonce been forgotten. The presence of the Fleet has proved an attraction strong enough to draw to the "Costers' Paradise" thousands of visitors who, under ordinary circumstances, give it a wide berth. The elongated monstrosity of a pier has stood the strain of a mighty multitude; and a universal sigh of relief has been suspired. Even the obscure home of the cockle industry, Southend's perky little pendant, Leigh-on-Sea, has shone for a while with some of the glory reflected by its larger neighbour. Those distressing evidences of the speculating builders' activity, blatantly new and garish villa residences, half-dug foundations, unmade roads, and rain-stained advertisement hoardings, lost for a brief while their power to depress the soul of man. All eyes were directed towards the river, where the mightiest Fleet in being lay at anchor. So great, in fact, was the demand upon the sense of sight that the nose, usually stimulated to ceaseless activity in that part of the Essex coast, forgot for a while to exercise its office. Visitors heeded not the ambrosial odours. They were content to see the Fleet—and die.

It really ought to have been obvious to the Unionist hecklers in the Dumfries election that in these days the acceptance of a post of £1,000 a year in the Government is not necessarily all profit. Yet one of them reproached Mr. Gulland with accepting a Whip's job at £1,000 a year. "Yes," he is reported to have retorted, "and bang goes £500 on this election." And before he collects the other £500—but we will hope for the best. The House of Lords does sometimes change its mind, after all.

Though, of course, it is true that Dr. Durbridge, the Poor Law medical officer for the Cromford District, was acting beyond his official powers in engaging a nurse for a patient who lingered between life and death for several days, probably not a single ratepayer in Bakewell will blame him, or desire that he shall be mulct in his personal pocket. Often red tape ends where humanity begins. In this instance, the patient would probably have died but for the fact that the doctor called in the district nurse. The Chairman of the Bakewell Guardians, Mr. Tom Wright, J.P., made an unnecessary fuss at the meeting of the Board because Dr. Durbridge had "exceeded his duty." He should, said that important person, have applied to the relieving officer. Mr. M. Hill, a fellow guardian, has apparently a somewhat less exalted opinion of the Board's red-tape department. "But," he retorted, "the woman might have died while he was sending for the relieving officer, who lives seven or eight miles away." "We cannot help that," replied the Chairman; "those are the rules the doctor has to comply with." It is, however much more desirable that Dr. Durbridge should sacrifice a rule than that he should sacrifice a life. Surely he has proved that not in vain was it written that the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. He is hereby assured of our hearty approbation.

We recently commented upon the loathsome showman tactics of the Rev. W. H. Answorth, with his "armless and legless evangelist," at the Church of Christ, Above Bar, Southampton. We are glad to know that his methods do not meet with the approbation of the regular authorities of the Church, and it is only right that we should mention that the Rev. John Heath, the present minister of the place, writes us that the "Church of Christ" had nothing to do with the services referred to except to allow the use of the building. Mr. Heath proceeds: "In the hope that he might have a real Christian message to deliver, we were willing to give him the opportunity, but neither I nor my people have any sympathy with the methods employed. If we had known the services would be used to advertise in so glaring and offensive a manner a fellow-creature's deformity, we should not have yielded to his request. I cannot express my repugnance when I first saw the poster on our walls, nor the eagerness of my desire that the services should be over. To us as to others this attempt to mingle the Gospel with an appeal to curious and morbid tastes is distasteful and painful. We are sorry that our desire to further any real Christian work should have helped what we regard as neither Christian nor humane." We are glad to have this disclaimer.

It is bad news to know that the Crystal Palace Company is "hopelessly insolvent." Indeed, there seems every probability that the famous glasshouse and its delightful grounds will soon fall into the hands of the building speculator; unless, that is, a new company can be formed to save them. For many years the Palace has been starved for lack of capital, whilst deficiencies of management and a bad train service have done the rest. There is a remote chance that a public entertainer of genius, with cash at his back, could boom it back into popularity, provided proper arrangements could be made with the railway companies which feed the district. But where to get the genius and the cash? Here is a chance for Mr. Kiralfy!

The *Daily Chronicle* describes the result of the Dumfries election, in which, on one of the smallest Parliamentary registers in the Kingdom, Mr. Gulland's majority was reduced by two-thirds, as a great "Budget victory." The sub-editor who wrote that heading deserves a rise.

Why will Mr. Keir Hardie exaggerate? Writing of the Stanley explosion, he says, "In the evening I managed to reach West Stanley, where on the 16th day of February last, at about four in the afternoon, 168 men and lads were—so at least it is alleged by men on the spot—foully murdered by the criminal neglect of those responsible for the safety of the pit. The inquiry into the cause of the disaster come to an inconclusive ending, but of the fact as set forth above there can be little—if any—doubt." What right has Mr. Hardie to sponsor these charges if he is not in a position to prove them? The survivors of the disaster themselves repudiate by formal resolution his accusations. "I have to assure you that the men sympathise with you against your accusers," says the secretary of the men's lodge in writing to the manager, "and only wish they had the chance to be placed under your care again." What more effective answer can Mr. Hardie have to his monstrous exaggerations than that?

It is not often that we find ourselves in agreement with the members of the Episcopal bench. It is therefore the greater pleasure to be able to express our appreciation of the attitude of Dr. Grimes, the Bishop of Auckland, towards the total abstinence cranks and prohibitionists of New Zealand. These faddists tried to exalt their mania into a doctrine of the faith, and issued addresses impressing upon the people the duty to vote for prohibition. Thereupon the Bishop indited a reply in which, among many other straight and sensible observations, he says:—

> (1) That the direct and impassioned appeal of one of the leaflets bears the unmistakable stamp of modern Manicheism.
>
> (2) The writers thereof say not a word of temperance, truth, and justice, which are cardinal virtues, whilst prohibition is not.
>
> (3) According to them prohibition is the be-all and end-all of our political, social, religious, and moral life, verily containing the whole law and the prophets. "Be a prohibitionist," they seem to say, "and your salvation is secured."
>
> (4) . . . Were I sure that prohibition prohibits; that where enforced it does away with intemperance and the many evils this degrading vice brings in its train, I would vote for prohibition to-morrow, and I would vote for reduction were I not convinced that it is contrary to the laws of equity and justice.

His lordship goes on to say that no drink can be condemned as an evil in itself, and that in his view prohibition gives rise to deceit, untruth and other wickednesses to procure what the law prohibits. There are a good many people, some Bishops among them, in the Old Country who might profit by his lordship's common-sense.

The evidences of gross inconvenience to respectable persons caused by the "Children's Charter" grow apace. The testimony in favour of its value is still to seek. And there are anomalies in its working, too. A reader had occasion the other day to make a long tour of the Midlands on foot and awheel, with his youthful son. The lad is large enough to be regarded as an adult by the railway companies; and so is charged full fare. But he is too small to be so regarded by the law. Therefore, for several days in the recent wet weather, he was compelled to spend the hours during which his father lunched at sundry villages lacking the doubtful boon of a temperance hostel, in munching sandwiches on handy doorsteps within hail of the local inn. Only at such towns as boasted a railway refreshment buffet were father and son enabled to eat together. For, although it will injure the body, poison the mind, and imperil the soul of a big boy to take him into a public-house bar where alcohol is sold, you may introduce him to every railway refreshment bar in the country. A wonderful thing this making the younger generation noble by Act of Parliament!

True it is that some of the men and women who occupy official positions behind the counters of post offices are not always as polite as they might be. On the other hand, the general public is not invariably on its best behaviour in its relations with these servants. It is at times terribly stupid and unreasonably in haste; also it often expects the lady who despatches its sixpenny telegrams, not only to decipher its Chinese caligraphy, but to lick its stamps. Complaints of Post Office incivility are not always made by the most civil people. Mr. Buxton's circular may serve to remind all parties that mutual forbearance and consideration will tend to improve the situation.

There are occasions when "the dead hand" becomes ridiculous. In a sense, it is nobody's business how a rich man leaves his money when he goes to—or, rather, when he dies. Yet if he make a parade of bigotry on his death-bed, and the fact is blazoned in the Press, comment may be excused. The late Mr. R. S. Collinge, a wealthy North Midlands magnate, provided in his will for certain serious penalties against one of his own daughters because she had become a Roman Catholic; giving preferential treatment to all his other daughters over her—but penalising them in turn if either they or their husbands should embrace the Roman Catholic faith. Besides, they must not leave any of the moneys left by him to them to Roman Catholics, or persons marrying Roman Catholics, or to any Roman Catholic institution. One cannot help feeling a certain degree of indignation at such posthumous savagery. Wills like this make directly for the perpetuation of fanaticism on the one hand and hyprocrisy on the other. They impel us to wonder whether we shall ever become really civilised.

Environment is everything to some people. This is not a quotation from the latest speech of Mr. Victor Grayson, but a meditation of our own on the strange case of Henry Collinson. The said Henry is literally a gaol-bird—one who loves his cage and is happiest there. "They are delighted to have him in prison," said the Court Missioner at Hull, where Henry was appearing in connection with a small matter of some mislaid jewellery. "He is the best worker they have there. They can set him to anything, and he does it with pleasure. But he will not work outside." What an example for the Suffragettes! But Henry must be careful. If he gets himself talked about too much, he will be discovered by the criminologist fad-fakirs, be labelled as a "type" or something, and be dragged from his happy cell and made famous. Henry should tip that missioner the wink and push along as quietly as may be with his alternate periods of blithesome prison labour and artistic burglary.

Is the womanhood of England incapable of looking after its manhood? Of course, there are ladies nowadays who deny that it is the duty of woman to do anything of the sort. Miss Cicely Hamilton, for instance, is proud that some women prefer to remain single. But generally speaking, women do deem it their business and pleasure to try and make their men-folk comfy. Do they succeed? Can they do it? The replies, if we had a referendum of our masculine readers, and all of them dared to tell the truth, would, we imagine, vary considerably. We trust, however, that few would have to admit to owning or being owned by a female so lacking in the elements of domestic science as a collier who gave evidence at Hyde the other day. Speaking of the qualifications of his astuter half, this ungallant squire of dames declared that his missis was utterly unsuited to the control of his hearth and home; and he added the sweeping indictment: "Nine out of ten wives cannot boil a drop of water without burning it!"

Some time ago we took occasion to submit that the circumstance that Mr. Harry Lauder seems never to have heard a dirty joke at a music-hall might be due to the fact that the Scotsman listens only to his own songs and jokes, and then hurries off home with the bawbees. Whereas at the theatre he saw Mr. J. M. Barrie's play right through, and was shocked accordingly—shocked that Mr. Barrie should imagine that anyone from the virtuous land beyond the Tweed could possibly play naughty games with a lady not his wife. Now, we are happy to see, the Variety Artistes' Federation is doing its best officially to wipe out the few stains that disfigure the present-day music-hall programme. Unfortunately, this may be difficult, because some of the most dubious jokes are made by men who are possessed of genuine gifts and could very well dispense with such methods. Perhaps they thought that their audiences could not. Let us reassure them. We are not Pharisees; we like a good Rabelaisian story that is funny; and we do not mistake a variety palace for a Sunday-school. But, after all, the music-hall audience is what is known as "mixed." The "artiste" who forgets this should be fired out as ruthlessly as he would be from a decent drawing-room.

The Sabbatarians of Rothesay are making headway. At a recent meeting of the local Harbour Trust, it was recommended by a committee that the waiting-rooms and ladies' lavatories on the pier be kept open on Sundays during certain hours. The most novel objection came from one Buchanan—not he of the special Scotch. He noted that "the great bulk" of the people who went down to the pier on Sundays did so out of curiosity, and they could not "pander to the tastes of these people." In the end it was decided by ten votes to five to reject the minutes of the committee. We have not the slightest objection to the Rothesay Sabbatarians opening the churches and chapels, but we have some difficulty in understanding why they should desire to close the lavatories. In order to be good it is not necessary to be unkind.

We suppose we ought to admire the distributors of patronage in the present Government very much. Anyway, there has been nothing like it in our time. Until the advent of the present Ministry, the Government of the day was supposed to favour its own supporters in distributing honours, whether great or small; but the present Ministers seem to have a rooted objection to giving their party followers anything worth having. One of the bitterest complaints against the late Government and its patronage was about the way in which its Lord Chancellor packed the Magisterial Bench with Tories, but there are a good many more Tories on it now than there were in Lord Halsbury's day. The latest illustration of a curious leaning is to be found in the announcement that the Garter vacant by the death of the Marquess of Ripon has been given to the Earl of Selborne. Lord Melbourne used to say that the Garter was the one decoration which was conferred without any "damned humbug about merit." We are far from saying that upon the score of merit Lord Selborne is not one of the fittest men to receive it. He has done excellent work in South Africa, and the country recognizes it; but the Earl of Selborne was a member of the late Unionist Cabinet, and when he comes back to England will be a political opponent of the Party now in office. Probably there are not many members of that party who are included in the narrow circle considered suitable for the Garter, but surely there are some—the Earl of Aberdeen, for example; yet Mr. Asquith ignores them, and gives the coveted distinction to a political opponent. It is magnificent, but——it is not playing the game.

Join the League. Which League? The John Bull League.

Some time ago we warned certain elderly gentlemen, ex-military and more or less civil, that their pæans in praise of conscription might lead to a rapid growth of an avowed and extreme anti-militarist faction. Our fears are confirmed by the democratic papers, especially the largely circulated journals of the North. One of these has been for some weeks past full of letters, from former soldiers among others, that can hardly fail to have a very adverse effect on recruiting. Astonishing things we know are done in the Army; but we did not know that one of the ways they have of curing a sore heel, caused by over-marching, is to give out a No. 9 pill! Even Jones's Dark Green Globules do not pretend to cure sore heels, if our memory serves us well. Again, after reading about Kipling's four-meal meat-fed men, it comes as a bit of a shock to find soldiers describing how they have to live on a pound of Spratt's biscuits, some tinned mystery, and a few oddments. Watered beer, according to another warrior, forms part of the nourishment of the People's Tommy, whose other woes are said to be too numerous to mention. When we pay our soldiers well and house and feed them decently, we shall have no difficulty in getting a first-rate and numerically sufficient army by voluntary methods. The response to the Territorial demand, in all the circumstances, has been remarkable. It shows that we are still a martial nation.

THIS WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

He was just recovering from an attack of D.T.'s, and had called upon a friend to congratulate him upon his first-born. It happened to be a case of twins, and as the proud father ushered his visitor into the room he asked: "What do you think of that?" But the visitor was not giving himself away, and, so, with perfect composure, observed, "It's a very fine child"!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN CONFERENCE, WHICH "DEPLORES" THE PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE OPERATIONS OF THE DIVORCE LAW, AND "TRUSTS ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE WILL OFFER STRENUOUS RESISTANCE" TO ANY MEASURE PLACING RELEASE WITHIN THE REACH OF THE POOR.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For stating that the late Sir Wilfrid Lawson "never WON *an enemy,"*

MR. ASQUITH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Fifty large tongues, fifteen hams, numberless huge joints of beef and mutton, and hundreds of loaves were cut up into BREAD AND BUTTER,"

THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following paragraph: "Mr. W. B. Luke, the Willesden magistrate, yesterday told a couple seeking separation, who admitted that they had been married twenty-five years, that they should now have been celebrating joyfully their GOLDEN WEDDING,"

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For issuing a contents bill announcing the result of the Dumfries Burghs election (in which the Liberal majority was reduced from 633 *to* 292) *as "*ANOTHER BUDGET VICTORY,"

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "King Edward is the eldest son of the second child of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort,"

THE BIRMINGHAM OWL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For relating how some boy scouts were sent to carry a despatch 30 *miles, how they arrived without it, and how "otherwise the experiment was a* COMPLETE *success,"*

THE YORKSHIRE POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Guernsey is to have AQUATIC *sports, to include running, cycling, and jumping,"*

THE JERSEY TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "four-wheel TRICYCLE *for sale,"*

F. CLINCH, BAKER, OF YIEWSLEY,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following paragraph: "George Bailey, aged 21, *was found drowned on the day when he should have been married in a pond at Greasborough, Rotherham,"*

THE BICESTER HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting an "extraordinary strawberry 8½ *inches in* CIRCUMFERENCE *and* 1¾ *inch in* DIAMETER,"

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "a new COLLEGE *has been discovered by Professor Brooks. It is now visible in New York at dawn and twilight towards the North, and is expected soon to be discernible in Europe. It is travelling towards the earth at the rate of a mere million miles a minute,"*

THE BIRMINGHAM EXPRESS & STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that visitors to a certain shop "will experience no OPPORTUNITY *to purchase,"*

THE PARIS NEW YORK HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Black Hamburgh Eggs, from 3rd Prize Crystal Palace COCK,"

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE FEATHERED WORLD*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "a skeleton DEVOID OF THE SLIGHTEST PARTICLE *of flesh was discovered on Wednesday on the sand near Wooton, Isle of Wight, by a visitor, who reported his startling find to the police,"*

THE BELFAST EVENING TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

ARE FREEMASONS HONEST?

[A few plain words to members of the great craft.]

By an Ex-Subscriber to the Order.

"Stupendous!" Such is the reply of the Brethren when they have recovered their breath. "Stupendous! Incredible! Who can possibly have had the audacity to ask such a question? Who can possibly doubt the ingenuousness of such an universal society as the Order of Free and Accepted Masons?" Nevertheless, the writer suggests that a few home-truths, derived from a close personal knowledge of the internal administration of the Craft, may not only prove interesting to the popular world at large, but will also reveal the many weaknesses which exist in connection with this, the most gigantic brotherhood (?) that the world has ever known.

What is Freemasonry? A peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Open to all just, upright, and free men, of mature age, sound judgment and strict morals. A mighty organisation founded on the three grand principles—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—universally spread over the earth's surface, and commanding a membership the numerical value of which it would be extremely difficult to compute. Suffice it to say that under the English Constitution alone over 3,300 Lodges have been consecrated. Moreover, the English Constitution of Ancient and Accepted Freemasons is only one of many Grand Masonic Lodges scattered over the face of the globe. There is no town of whatever nationality, no race of whatever creed or colour, which does not boast of its Masonic Lodge, and where the sign, token, or word would not be recognised and acknowledged.

The fundamental principles—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—indicate the tenets of the Order, which every candidate for admission is bound by solemn oath to observe. Every candidate on his initiation is required to take an oath of fealty to the Order in general, and to every individual member in particular, and to swear by oath and on the direst of death penalties that "should he ever meet a brother in distressed circumstances who might solicit assistance, he will cheerfully embrace the opportunity of relieving him to the best of his ability; to relieve his necessities; on no account to wrong him or see him wronged; to consider a brother's interests as inseparable from his own; that the hand grip, when given to a Brother Mason, shall be a sure pledge of Brotherhood; to maintain a Brother Mason's honour and carefully preserve it as his own; not to injure him or suffer it to be done by others; to shed a tear of sympathy for a Brother in distress, and to pour the healing balm of consolation into his afflictions." Truly a great responsibility, but a responsibility which all Masons undertake with their eyes open. Moreover, it is a responsibility which there are some few Masons always ready to fulfil, Masons honourable to their trust, men who are Masons not for what they can get out of it, but for the good they can do. Still the question is repeated—"Are Freemasons Honest?"

In connection with the English United Grand Lodge of Freemasons there are three great Institutions. These are the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Each of these institutions has an important duty to fulfil, and to a *certain* extent fulfils that duty satisfactorily. The R.M.I.G. and the R.M.I.B. are Institutions founded to provide education for the daughters and sons respectively of deceased Freemasons. The R.M.B.I. grants annuities to aged Freemasons and to aged widows of Freemasons, amounting to £40 and £32 a year, respectively. These are laudable objects, worthy of the highest praise. These Institutions are known all the world over, and are regarded as supreme illustrations of that divine and heavenly gift—charity. But the writer contends from intimate knowledge acquired by years of experience—

(1) That the huge sums of money annually subscribed to maintain these Institutions are not the outcome of those sentiments of Brotherly Love and Charity which are preached at every Lodge meeting.

(2) That the various committees whose duty it is to manage these institutions do not honestly fulfil their obligations to the Craft.

(3) That the Lodges, individually and collectively, are often not honest in protecting the interests of those who are dependent upon a deceased Brother.

First, each institution is maintained partly by an assured income, the result of investments, but mainly by the voluntary subscriptions of the members of the Order. In return for these subscriptions, the names of the donors are publicly announced through the Press. Each subscriber is qualified to wear on his coat or Masonic collar a jewel varying according to the amount of his subscriptions. Also each subscriber has at his control a number of votes for the forthcoming elections. Moreover, a full list of subscribers is published each year by each Institution. What a lucrative public advertisement that would be, say, for a tradesman! Imagine the increase of business that a manufacturer of pills would enjoy, when it became publicly known that he had qualified as Patron—two hundred guineas—to one of these Institutions! A cheaper and better advertisement than a full page in one of the local dailies! Yet if a Brother Mason of more humble rank (though all are supposed to be Masonically equal), had a child dying of sickness, his larder empty, and the landlord clamouring for rent, he might appeal a hundred times for support, and appeal in vain. Either his appeal would be altogether ignored or else a curt refusal would be the result. How many have had such an experience? How surprising would be the result if only such statistics could be obtained!

Secondly, every year the gross income of each of these institutions is very considerably in excess of the gross expenditure. Grouping the three institutions together, the gross income for the eight years 1901-1908 inclusive was £908,888 9s. 11d.; while the gross expenditure did not exceed £479,648 8s. Although each of these Institutions is already fabulously wealthy, the R.M.I.B. alone having a capital account of over £400,000; yet, simply in order to show their authority, they reject at each and every election many candidates that have been duly tested and approved, several of them reduced to the lowest grades of poverty and want. This the managing committees have done and are still doing, and yet, during the last eight years they have invested no less a sum of money than £322,588 14s. 3d., to be added to an already extensive capital account, paying no attention to the crying needs of the present generation.

Thirdly, each candidate must be recommended and approved by the Lodge of which the deceased or aged brother was a member. The petition must be signed in open Lodge by the officers and brethren then present. Then why do the Lodges not always support the petitions of which they approve? Recently one aged Freemason received ten votes and a widow received seven, whereas thousands of votes were necessary to secure election. Again, a boy at a recent election polled five votes, and a girl candidate received four. By the rules of the Order, these candidates were approved by the various Lodges concerned, and the brethren of these Lodges by signing the petition gave their promise to support their candidate to the utmost of their ability. Imagine the feelings of these two poor widowed mothers to find themselves thus deserted at a time when they most needed help. Were the brethern concerned honest? Comment is needless. Nor are these isolated cases. There are many of them. They occur regularly. Yet they fail to rouse the indignation of the members of that mighty organisation, Freemasonry. It is a common occurrence to hear a Grand Officer, with his head full of self-esteem and his stomach full of champagne, give utterance in a post-prandial speech to those "grand Masonic Institutions by which the whole world is amazed," but no mention is made of the numerous sore disappointments which constantly come to light.

There is in connection with the United Grand Lodge of Ancient and Accepted Freemasons a Fund of Benevolence. From every subscription which is annually paid by every member of the Order, a small amount is set aside by Grand Lodge and used to augment this Fund of Benevolence. This Fund, on December 31st last, amounted to £75,416 3s. 6d. To this fund any brother in distressed circumstances, if he be a brother of five years' standing, may appeal for relief. Any such appeal must be made by petition duly signed by the master, officers and brethren of his Lodge. The case is tested and approved by his Lodge, and accordingly recommended by them for relief. Naturally, no case would be approved if there were not great distress and urgent need for relief. This petition is then heard by a committee called the Board of Benevolence. That is quite regular. Then why are so many petitions, regularly approved and recommended, so unceremoniously

rejected without excuse, without rhyme or reason and without appeal? Still, on the other hand, Grand Lodge often makes generous donations to charities which have no claim whatever upon the Masonic body. Surely charity begins at home, and petitions from private Lodges should not be rejected to the detriment of the very men who have by their subscriptions made this Fund of Benevolence what it is. The writer could cite numerous examples of this gross injustice, but will only mention one. Not long ago the Press exposed a case of a brother Mason who died from hunger and starvation in a common lodging house, after having appealed in vain for the bare necessities of existence. Is this in accordance with the Grand Principles of the Masonic Order—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth? Can it be that this is attributed to the fact that the huge donations of Grand Lodge—£1,000 to this fund, £500 to that hospital, &c., are publicly advertised, thus causing Freemasonry to be lauded to the skies, while the disappointments of individuals are kept secret and swallowed with disgust?

Much more serious is the consideration of the attitude of Masons one towards another. As mentioned above, every Mason, when passing through the three degrees necessary before he can become a Master Mason, has to take a solemn oath that under all circumstances he will do all in his power to help a brother Mason, to protect his honour, and to pour the balm of consolation into his afflictions. It is quite true that there do exist Masons—few and far between—who make an honest effort to be true to their promise. Not so, however, is it with the vast majority of the brotherhood. The writer is well aware that this assertion will be ridiculed by those Masons who have never known what it is to want a meal, to have not a penny in the world, to seek in vain for a friend in need. To them Masonry is a brilliant mirror, reflecting all that is bright in the world. Yet let one of them choose a wealthy Mason; there are plenty of them who could part with a thousand pounds and not miss it. Go to him, give him the familiar sign, and, if he will condescend to allow you, extend to him the grip of fellowship. Then tell him the wife and children are hungry and ask him for the gift or loan of five shillings. Instead of the request being granted, a curt refusal and an ignominious snub will be the result. He will then learn that so long as a brother is prosperous he is hail-fellow-well-met, and Masonry is a noble organisation, full of charity and good work; but once he is down on his luck, Masonry becomes a mockery and a fraud.

In short, the average Freemason of to-day is not honest. On his initiation he declares on oath that he seeks the privileges of Freemasonry "uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives." More often than not, this is a deliberate lie, for he joins the Order for what he can get out of it. Also he swears a solemn and binding obligation to his Brother Masons, which obligation he ignores and forgets as soon as possible.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

August 1st. COUNT DE BENCKENDORFF.
What did the Russian whisper in your ear?—
Shakespeare.

August 3rd. HON. ALFRED DEAKIN.
Let not the Commonwealth suffer anything in the way of injury.—*Cæsar.*

August 5th. T. H. W. IDRIS.
The more the waters are drunk, the more are they drunk.—
Classical Proverb.

August 5th. LOUIS WAIN.
Cat-o contra mundum.

TWO DEVILS, TWO SAINTS, AND A PITCHFORK.

IN VIEW OF SIR THOMAS WHITTAKER'S RECENT DESCRIPTION OF MR. LLOYD GEORGE AS THE DEVIL WITH A PICTHFORK, OUR ARTIST HAS REVISED HIS SKETCH OF MR. KEIR HARDIE AND THE CZAR WHICH APPEARED IN OUR ISSUE OF JULY 3rd, AND WHICH WE REPRODUCE ABOVE TOGETHER WITH THE NEW VERSION.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

(A remarkable case, showing that the justices have power to keep a man in prison for the term of his natural life, whilst they thus rob him of the power to pay the debt.)

A few weeks ago, Messrs. Young, Son and Ward, solicitors, of Ely Place, London, sent us a copy of a statement which they had just placed before the Home Secretary in relation to a remarkable case of Imprisonment for Debt. They considered that it disclosed "a very serious menace to the liberty of the subject"—and we think our readers will agree with this view. Here is the statement:—

24, Ely Place,
Holborn Circus,
London, E.C.
4th June, 1909.

Sir,—We venture to bring to your notice the following circumstances connected with a matter in which we have acted professionally.

On the 1st November, 1898, Charles Edward Sherry was adjudged by the Penge Justices to have been guilty of cruelty towards his wife, and an Order for separation was made, our client being directed to pay to his wife the sum of 20s. per week.

On the 11th of October, 1908, our client was arrested for non-payment of arrears of alimony amounting to £515—being 515 weekly payments which were alleged to have accrued since the date of the Order before mentioned to the date of his arrest.

On the 12th of October, 1908, we tendered bail for our client, which was accepted, and the case was directed to be heard by the Justices on the 20th of October, 1908, on which date it duly came before them.

Our client contended that under a certain deed which had been executed shortly after the Order for separation his wife had received certain benefits, and that, in fact, she had received a sum largely in excess of the amount payable under the Order.

The Justices did not give effect to our contention, and ordered our client either to pay the sum directed or go to prison for three months, but the Justices agreed to state a case upon a point of law which was raised on behalf of our client. For your information a copy of the case and the documents annexed thereto is sent herewith.

The case came before the High Court of Justice on the 20th October, 1908, when the Court held that the decision of the magistrates was right.

Our client, who is a seafaring man, was at the time employed as a cook on board ship, and he surrendered to his bail on the 2nd March, 1909, on which date a summons, which we had previously issued, was heard asking for a reduction of the alimony. We then pointed out to the Justices that the amount of the alimony should, in any event, be reduced while our client should be in prison, when his earning capacity would be absolutely suspended. The Justices refused our application, and the defendant was committed to prison.

During the term of his imprisonment it was quite impossible for Sherry to make any payment, and shortly before his term expired he was served with a summons for failing to pay the sum of £2 8s. 6d. costs of the proceedings before the Justices which he had been ordered to pay.

Sherry left Brixton Prison on Tuesday last, and he was then arrested on a warrant for payment of £12 arrears of maintenance which had accrued while he was in prison, and he was taken direct to the Penge Police Court. We were not present at the police court, but we understand that the only evidence of means given was that we on behalf of some of the defendant's relatives had offered £20—in discharge of the arrears of alimony shortly after the defendant was committed to prison.

Obviously the defendant had not earned money to pay the arrears while in prison, and consequently no evidence of his means in that respect could have been given. The Bench committed the defendant to prison for six weeks, although he offered to pay the amount by instalments if the Bench would give him time.

On the summons for payment of costs amounting to £2 8s. 6d. the defendant was also committed to prison for 14 days.

We are not now acting professionally in this matter, but we consider it our duty to lay the fact before you, inasmuch as they amount to what we respectfully suggest is nothing less than a public scandal.

Obviously, while the defendant is in prison his earning power will be again suspended, and when his time shall expire he will doubtless be rearrested and sent to prison again for arrears which have accrued during his present term of imprisonment. That this course is contemplated is clearly shown by a letter which has been sent to a relative of the defendant, and of which we enclose a copy. Apparently, therefore, the defendant will remain in prison for the rest of his natural life at the dictation of his wife.

We shall be glad to hear that you will intervene in favour of the defendant, and if you would like any further information upon the subject we should be pleased to attend upon you and supply the same,

We are, sir,
Your obedient servants,
(Signed) W. W. Young, Son and Ward.

The Right Hon. His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.
Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

And here is the "letter to a relative" referred to in Messrs. Young, Son and Ward's statement:—

33, George Street, Croydon.
3rd June, 1909.

Sherry.

Dear Sir,—As you were at the Court on Tuesday last, may we suggest your intercession with a view to ending all these extreme and painful steps? We offered in Court last Tuesday to accept Mr. Sherry's offer if guaranteed, and therefore, if he was in earnest in offering £5 a month until the present arrears are cleared off, and you would guarantee same, we should be only too pleased to drop all proceedings so long as he kept to the arrangement. So far as we are concerned, of course, you are under no obligation to do so, but we think it as well to point this out and shall be glad to hear in due course. We are, of course, assuming that Mr. Sherry is still at Brixton.

We need hardly add that at the end of this present term we shall reluctantly be compelled to repeat these steps.

Yours faithfully,
Wm. Hood and Co.

We waited, with some interest, for the result of the complaint to the Home Secretary, but, to our surprise, we learnt that he "had no power to interfere" in matters of this kind, and that all he could do was to send the letter on to the Chairman of the Committee now considering the subject of Imprisonment for Debt.

Messrs. Young, Son and Ward pointed out that this was not much satisfaction to their client, and again urged the Home Secretary to interfere—but all to no purpose. They then applied for a writ of certiorari to bring up the warrants under which Sherry had been committed, and after a long argument the Court came to the conclusion that the justices had not exceeded their powers, although expressing sympathy with the unfortunate man.

The solicitors then approached the wife's advisers, and ultimately succeeded in adjusting matters, with the result that the man was released from prison shortly before his time expired. Subsequently an order was obtained from the justices reducing the alimony to 12s. 6d. per week.

We conclude the story in the words of Messrs. Young, Son and Ward: "The net result is that justices have power, if they choose to exercise it, to keep a man in prison for the term of his natural life, simply because he is unable to discharge a debt, and they by their action rob him of the only chance of earning the money to make the payment."

And yet there are people who say there is no such thing in this country as Imprisonment for Debt!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE

President: HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.
Offices; 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

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THE WORKING OF THE SMALL HOLDINGS ACT.

[*Some Suggestions for the Improvement of the Act and Comparison with Holdings from a Private Landlord.*]

All who wish England well must hope that the Small Holdings Allotments Act, 1908, will do what is expected of it in the way of adding largely to the number of small landowners; but it would be rash to predict the success of any Act until experience has justified it, and the advocates of Small Holdings have ground for uneasiness as to the working of this particular Act. The number of applications made under it has been very large, quite as large as was expected, but there is a long step between an application and the placing of a man upon the land. It was foreseen that the Act would have two great obstacles to contend with, the one the unwillingness of the great majority of landowners to sell; the other, the dread of the local authority upon whom the working of the Act devolves lest large purchases may involve the ratepayers in heavy expense. There is no doubt that many landowners are unwilling to sell, and as little doubt that county councils, as a rule, are unwilling to fall back upon their compulsory powers. But apart from these factors, which militate against the success of the Act, there is another, namely, the high price to be charged to the tenant. Small Holdings are very good things, but like everything else, you may pay too much for them, and it is charged against the county councils that they are asking prohibitive prices for the Holdings provided by them with the object of making the scheme of the Act a failure.

It is well to be just to county councils, as to others, and it seems to us that in this matter of price they are wrongly blamed. They are helpless. They are bound to charge a very high, almost prohibitive, price. The Act compels them to do it.

By the Small Holdings Act the county councils are specially enjoined that they are not to make any profit out of these land purchases and, on the other hand, they are strictly warned that they must not show a loss. The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, which is the Lord High Everything Else in Small Holdings matters, not only refuses to approve any scheme which involves the slightest risk of loss, but insists upon a very considerable margin being provided for management and other expenses—even as much as from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent., a ridiculous margin—10 per cent. being ample. This keenness is explained when it is stated that if the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries approves the scheme and it does not turn out in the actual working on the right side, the Board are liable to bear half the annual loss.

Let us, however, assume that all the formalities have been complied with, and that a council has procured some land for Small Holdings upon reasonable terms. The following case shows how the thing is worked, and we may add that it was a case actually dealt with by a county council.

A piece of land about 33 acres in extent and about 3 miles from a good market, was purchased for £1,500, being at the rate of about £50 an acre, which, considering its proximity to the market, was a very reasonable price. To equip the land as a holding, a house and farm buildings were provided, after the plans of which had been submitted to the various boards, to say nothing of the district council, all of whom had their own particular ideas and requirements, which meant that a very substantial erection was to be provided to satisfy them, although the prospective tenant would have been quite satisfied with something much simpler and cheaper.

The following statement shows how the rent to be charged to the tenant was arrived at. The figures are taken from actual transactions:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of Land, £1,500.		
Interest at 3½ per cent.	52 10 0	
Sinking fund (80 years basis) ..	3 11 6½	
		56 1 6½
Cost of Equipment, £575.		
Interest at 3½ per cent.	20 2 6	
Sinking fund (50 years basis) ..	4 7 9	
		24 10 3
Repairs, management, etc., 20 per cent. on £81 ..		16 4 0
Tithe		0 2 6
		£96 18 0
Rent charged to tenant		£97 0 0

Or at the rate of about £3 per acre, which is surely very excessive.

The rent the tenant is asked to pay is based upon a percentage of the cost of the land and its equipment, plus the amount of the annual sinking fund charged on account of the repayment of the principal money borrowed by the council. Now what does this mean? At the end of the term of years within which the council are to repay the capital cost of the land, and so on, the tenants have bought outright for the council the entire holding, lock, stock and barrel, and succeeding generations will derive a nice profit from these holdings, provided for them by the hard work of the present owners. This is a great injustice to the Small Holder. Why should he be asked to pay for the holding itself in addition to a fair rent for it? All Small Holders who can get together a little capital for the purpose should insist upon the purchase of their Holdings by instalments, instead of renting them. It would cost them little or no more than they pay now.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—LIV.

We invite attention to the following letter:—

May I draw your attention to my unfortunate position? I am encouraged to do so by reading every week the valuable assistance you render to those in trouble, under the heading of "Human Documents" I am just recovering from a very serious accident, and am to receive no compensation. In addition to severe injuries about the legs and head, my *right* arm has been taken off near the socket. I was, unfortunately, run over by a motor 'bus.

When I tell you that I am a married man with three children you will at once realize what such a loss means to me.

If you will be so kind as to grant me an interview, I could then go into details as to my position and capabilities, etc., and, of course, satisfy you as to my *bona-fides*.

We have seen the writer of this letter, and satisfied ourselves that its statements are correct. It seems that whilst riding a bicycle a Vanguard motor 'bus caught the machine, with the result that one of the wheels of the motor 'bus went over the rider and caused him the loss of his arm. He consulted Mr. Russell, a well-known solicitor, as to taking proceedings against the Vanguard Company, but it was pointed out to him that he had no witnesses, and that however much the jury might sympathise with him he could not hope to get a verdict upon his own uncorroborated statement. We need hardly point out that whilst he was in a half-conscious condition, occasioned by the injury done to him by the motor 'bus, he was in no condition to look about amongst the spectators for witnesses. The result is that the claim for heavy compensation which he would no doubt be able to enforce in a Court of Law if he had witnesses, cannot be maintained, and he finds himself, after an illness of nearly a year consequent upon the accident, stranded with wife and three children.

The writer can do light work, such as rent collecting, or secretary to a golf club, or something of that kind. He has excellent credentials, and his record is altogether unimpeachable. If any of our readers can lend him a hand we shall be most happy to place them in touch with him.

With reference to Human Document LIII., we have received two cheques for £5 each from readers who wish to remain anonymous. One desires us to pay £1 to the persons to be benefited for each of the following five weeks. We have also received 10s. from Mrs. L. Waldens, of Surbiton; 5s. from a reader who signs himself "L.M."; 5s. from Mr. G. B. Whitlock, of Fareham, Hants; 2s. 6d. from a reader who wishes to remain anonymous; 1s. from Mr. A. G. Heckman, of Henley-on-Thames, and a packet from a gentleman who signs himself "O. M. T." (Dublin), which we have forwarded as requested. We have also received a letter from Mr. Colin P. Preston, of Chiswick, who holds out prospect of employment. We have communicated with the writer to whom these several communications relate, and although we have not time to receive her reply before going to press, we are sure we may express her thanks to those generous benefactors for the help they have sent to her and hers in their need.

SECRETARY (LTD. CO.) having offices near Charing Cross is willing to undertake the secretarial duties of Limited Companies at low inclusive charges with use of room for Board and other Meetings. Highest references given on application to—
C. B. PULLIN, 8, Duke Street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.

Black Cat MEDIUM Cigarettes 1904 Crop.

"I STAND FOR JUSTICE!"

Justice in every point—quality, weight, size and make. These Cigarettes retain the confidence of the public by standing for justice—full weight, best quality, best make and fullest value at the lowest price.

10 for 2½d.

The Medium Cigarettes are made from selected full flavoured leaf of the famous choice 1904 crop of finest matured Virginia tobacco.

Black Cat Mild Cigarettes (1904 Crop),
a larger, heavier weight, and better quality Cigarette than any on the market

10 for 3d.

None better at any price.
Then why smoke any other Mild Cigarettes?

When purchasing Black Cat Cigarettes you are obtaining full value in tobacco, not in stiffening, foil, or wrappers.

Of all Tobacconists, or from Carreras, Ltd., 7 Wardour St., London, W. Est. 1788.

"PROFIT AND PLEASURE."

[*We show how each of two different solutions of a puzzle was declared to be correct, and ask a few questions.*]

Since we referred to this publication in our issue of July 17th, we have received a good deal of further information respecting the persons behind it and their doings. Among others, we have seen a man who was sent to the office of *Profit and Pleasure* by the Church Army and paid 2s. 6d. a day for the work done for the *Profit and Pleasure* people, who no doubt paid the Army authorities a good deal more. This man tells us that in three days—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—of the week before last he enclosed in wrappers and sent out some 5,000 acknowledgments of remittances of 3s. 6d., this 3s. 6d. being a year's subscription to the journal *Profit and Pleasure*, and qualifying the sender to compete for the prizes of £250 and £100, referred to in our issue of July 17th.

With regard to the competition, we have had sent us several letters addressed by the editor of *Profit and Pleasure* to various competitors, and there is this curious fact about two of them. One man gave Lord Chas. Beresford as the solution of the puzzle; another gave Admiral Stewart; but each of these competitors received a letter from the editor, couched in identical language, in which the first sentence runs as follows:—

> Congratulations. We received your exceedingly well put together solution of our portrait puzzle, and hasten to inform you (privately) that you are entitled to participate in the distribution of the cash prize we are awarding in connection with the contest advertised by us.

We are curious to know how these two competitors, giving different solutions of the puzzle, can both of them be winners. We should like to know what is the connection between the Premium Press, Ltd., who describe themselves as the proprietors of *Profit and Pleasure*, and address from St. Mary's Chambers, 161a, Strand, W.C., and Messrs. Cray, Stewart and Co., of 25, Milton Street, E.C., who describe themselves as wholesale warehousemen. And we should also like to know the connection between *Profit and Pleasure* and Messrs. Graham and Co., of 161a, Strand, who advertise "Gent.'s massive 50s. sterling silver watches for 15s.," and resort to the old trick of inviting instalments of 1s. each in language that makes it appear that the watch will be sent to purchasers on receipt of the first instalment, when, as a matter of fact, it is only sent when the whole of the instalments have been paid.

WHAT SAYS THE GUILD OF ST. LUKE?

[The Church of England proposes to start a Faith-healing Department.]

Can it be true that the Church of England is about to enter into competition with the Christian Scientists and the Peculiar People, with the boneless surgery mongers and the mesmeric mystery men of the music hall stage?

We ask this question because a very remarkable institution has recently been opened in Albert Road, Regent's Park. It is puffed in the public Press as a hospice—the first of its kind claiming connection with the Church of England—where "healing the sick by prayer and the laying on of hands" will be practised. The establishment of the hospice is said to be due to a "Society of Emanuel," which was formed in London four years ago to band together those who believe in spiritual healing. Its president is a Mr. J. M. Hickson, who is at present apparently the one and only faith-healer in the society. He is modest enough, however, not to claim any monopoly of this gift with respect to the world at large.

For a claimant to what amounts to supernatural power, Mr. J. M. Hickson is, throughout, plausibly modest. His movement is differentiated from the Christian Science movement by his modesty. He does not scorn medical aid. Two doctors will be associated with the hospice. Mr. Hickson can only cure, he cannot diagnose a complaint. It assists him in prayer "to know the seat of the trouble." He is even reasonable enough to allow that "of course, if he chanced to find that a patient was not really making the desired progress, he should take medical advice." In the case of a fractured limb, he lays down that "a doctor is essential." Nevertheless, there would be no discrimination as to the sort of diseases to be treated at the new institution.

Some of Mr. Hickson's attempts to construct a *via media* between his system and the *materia medica* are amusing. "It would be ridiculous," he exclaims, "to close the great hospitals, and substitute spiritual healing." "The great majority of the people are not in a condition of mind to accept so great a chan e as spiritual healing." "It [*i.e.*, to dis pense with the doctors] would be like taking away the crutches of a man who could not walk without them."

It does not appear that membership of the Society of Emanuel involves membership of the Established Church. The condition of membership is belief in the Divinity of Christ. Nevertheless, the hospice is boomed as the first of its kind in connection with the Church of England.

One of the rooms at the hospice has been turned into a chapel. On a dais at the end of this room a small altar is erected. It has four corner posts, and at the top of each post glitters a golden seraph. Kneeling before the altar Mr. Hickson prays for sick persons. This seems curious ritual for the Church of England, especially as a reference to "Crockford" discloses that Mr. Hickson is not in holy orders.

A few years ago, in a speech about Christian Science, the Bishop of London, while condemning the disciples of Mrs. Eddy for their rejection of medical aid, told at the Church House a sensational story of how he went straight from prayer, and saved the life of a lady of whom the doctors had despaired by means similar to those of the faith-healers. The amiable feather-headed prelate now seated on the throne occupied recently by such intellectual giants as Temple and Creighton has done strange things in his time. His eulogy of a third-rate melodramatic novel as one of the greatest works of the age, and his own essay into melodramatic fiction, with regard to the notorious Westminster march, do not conduce to confidence in his judgment.

Amateur occultism is often honest, but professional occultism betrays a tendency to degenerate into trickery and fraud. Whatever we may think of the Church of England, it bears a name as honoured and respectable as that of Royalty or *The Times* newspaper; a name, which ought not to be used, without authority, in connection with any new-fangled system of faith-healing. Is it likely that physicians of repute will attach themselves to this new hospice? We shall see. Meanwhile we would suggest that this is a favourable opportunity for the parson of the parish in which Albert Road is situate, to enter against these spiritual healers an objection similar to that admitted by the Bishop of Birmingham against Canon Hensley Henson. Even bad precedents may be used to serve a good purpose. What says the Guild of St. Luke?

IRELAND'S LATEST TROUBLE.

By an Irishman.

An Irishman tells of the Ill-effects which are following Lady Aberdeen's well-meant Crusade against Consumption.

When will the coping-stone be placed upon the building of my unfortunate country's woes? No sooner do we get out of the frying-pan, where we have been sizzling, than we flop into the fire, and when we have been half-cooked there we jump back on to the gridiron. The political agitator has been at his game for many a day, and he has been anathematised; but the latest blow, *mirabile dictu*, has been dealt by a big-hearted Vicereine, the genuineness of whose desire for the country's welfare cannot for a moment be questioned.

For nearly twenty years Lady Aberdeen did much to help along the cottage industries of Ireland, and to this day blessings are called down on her head by many a cottier who ekes out a livelihood by making lace, crochet-work, or what not. But her Excellency forsook her first love when she drew the sword to attack the nimble microbe of consumption. Strange fancy! For more than twelve months she has been over Ireland here and there like a will-o'-the-wisp, in Dublin this morning, in Belfast to-night, in Cork to-morrow, accompanied by a Dublin doctor, preaching about tuberculosis and laying it into the people with an ardour and eloquence that might be envied by a temperance fire-eater. Hot-gospeller of anti-consumption that she is, she has papered the country with leaflets on the interesting subject of what to do and how to do it when one meets the microbe, and also what to do when the little "varmint" gets inside one's line of defence. She also has a travelling van with an itinerating lecturer on the road, which is constantly surrounded by gaping peasants who vainly strive to make out what the dissertations on bacteriology mean.

Up to a point Lady Aberdeen's work was undoubtedly good; but now that she is endeavouring to get our philanthropists to purchase all the derelict coastguard stations for homes for consumptives, the people of the seaside resorts are, so to speak, on their hind legs and protesting loudly. The campaign has set afloat the idea that Ireland is sodden with consumption, with the result that hotel-keepers and others complain that tourists are afraid to come to the country, and English mistresses are afraid to hire Irish servants. Were the country so bad as people think it is—a consequence of Lady Aberdeen's work—I should disinfect this manuscript before sending it to John Bull, for I have no grievance against the editor, and should be sorry if I saw him slowly pining away.

It's really too bad, though, and if Lady Aberdeen desires to leave her footprints on the sands of time she should emulate Lady Dudley, who did a fine stroke when she formed a corps of nurses for the needy sick. Creepy Blue-books tell us that we are with terrible rapidity becoming a nation of mad folk, and it is a fact that all our asylums are crowded from basement to attic, and all our young and sane and healthy people are flying away on the Atlantic boats. If the Blue-books are right, and if Lady Aberdeen is right—which is a query—in the course of a decade we will all be running about with wood-choppers, looking for victims and gibbering and raving—all, that is, save those thousands who will be lying on their backs helpless in consumption and unable to wield the handy weapon and gibber.

MY THREE WIVES.

My first was a lady whose dominant passion
  Was thorough devotion to parties and fashion!
My second, regardless of conjugal duty,
  Was only the worse for her wonderful beauty.
My third was a vixen in temper and life,
  Without one essential to make a good wife.
Jubilate! At last in my freedom I revel;
  For I'm rid of the World, the Flesh, and the—etc.

—*From an old Northamptonshire Almanach.*

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page iii. of cover.

FREE BOOK TELLS HOW TO CURE NOSE-BREATHING DIFFICULTIES, CATARRH, HAY FEVER, ADENOIDS, WEAK CHEST & LUNGS, & ASTHMATIC & CONSUMPTIVE TENDENCIES.

Send (or call) for this Helpful Gift Book by a Patient and His Doctor, who Jointly Discovered a Remarkable 8-Hour Cure which Re-Opens Nasal Air-Passages, Banishes Catarrhal Conditions of Head, Nose, Ears, Throat, and Bronchial Tubes, and Greatly Strengthens the Chest and Lungs.

No Operations—No Cauterising—No Sprays—No Lozenges —No Emulsions—No "Cough Mixtures" —Cures by Automatic Respiratory Re-Education.

It is the hearty desire of the discoverers of the new cure that all who suffer from the above complaints should write (or call) for a gratis copy of the book they have just published under the title of "Respiratory Re-Education: The Physiological Cure for Catarrh, Adenoids, and Other Nose-Breathing Difficulties and Chest and Lung Weakness."

The Book advocates in a most plain-spoken manner, a truly common-sense method of cure of a class of complaint which has hitherto defied all other forms of treatment.

The cure is remarkable, inasmuch as it calls for no sprays or injections—no powders to be snuffed—no operations—and no painful cauterising (burning) of the inflamed mucous membrane of the nasal passages.

The new cure is further remarkable, AS IT CURES AUTOMATICALLY DURING SLEEP. Every reader afflicted with catarrh, knows how this hitherto inourable complaint prevents proper breathing. The nose is unable to do its duty of filtering, moistening, and warming the air, and the MOUTH is called upon to do the work AS WELL AS IT CAN.

As a result of this EXTRA duty of the mouth, the breathing becomes inefficient and shallow, and frequent head and chest colds are "caught" because of the improper reception of the cold air. (The nose, of course, is intended to (1) warm as well as (2) filter and (3) moisten the intaken air.) The nasal air-passages—by disuse—become more and more obstructed, causing adenoids, polypi, and inflamed or enlarged tonsils, which in the past have generally had to be operated upon by the surgeon.

The falling back down the throat, or on to the back of the tongue, of the poisonous, evil-smelling, slimy mucous matter causes offensive breath and a bad taste in the mouth.

The hearing generally becomes affected, the head feels hot, and the eyes dry, with reactionary spells of acrid watery discharge from eyes and nose, especially in changeable weather.

The senses of smell and taste become seriously impaired.

Even the mouth-breathing is handicapped by the accumulation of catarrhal matter in the bronchial tubes and lungs. This catarrhal matter affords a fine culture, or breeding-ground, for the Influenza germ. Catarrh invites Influenza. The Catarrh-free and those who breathe properly through their noses do not cultivate the Influenza germ.

Further, the pent-up catarrhal slime often gets into the stomach, the liver, kidneys, and bladder, seriously interfering with their functional ability, and frequently giving rise to catarrh of the stomach.

The joint authors of the discovery—as the result of a fruitless quest for relief and cure—were led to experiment along the line of "The First Cause"—the nose and its respiratory functions.

The layman it was who made the first enlightening discovery. A singer, he accidentally discovered HOW THE NOSE COULD BE TEMPORARILY FREED.

Upon this first-step discovery has been built an anatomical-physiological cure, the details of which are given fully (and illustrated) in the book, which can be obtained by sending a penny stamp for its postage, or by calling.

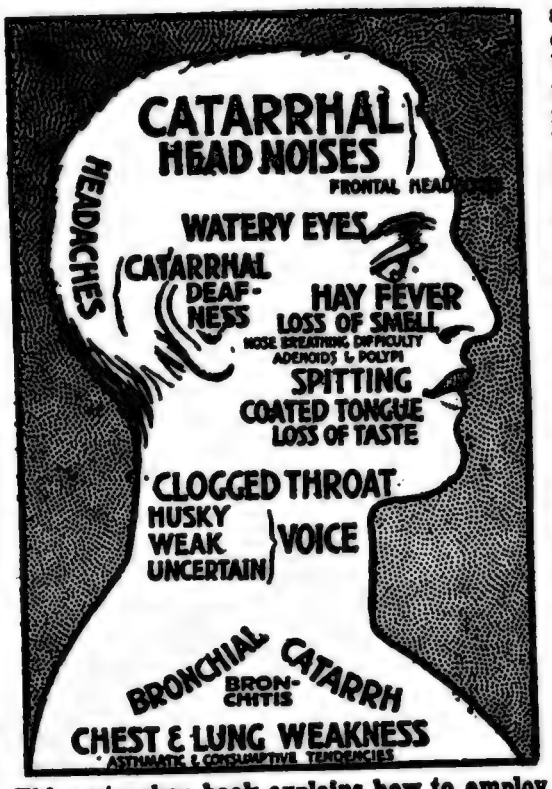
Immediately the method of cure described by the book is applied, there is striking evidence of its curative powers. It is, as one man put it, like coming into the fresh air out of a stiflingly close atmosphere.

How important is this matter of Respiratory Re-Education as the new principle of cure for Catarrh, &c., and other Nose-Breathing and Chest and Lung Difficulties may be seen from this lesson taken from another sphere of Nature. We all know how, when a garden or piece of ground is shut off from the sun and air how dank, damp and unhealthy becomes the soil. No amount of fertilising of that soil can restore to it those qualities which it always loses in the absence of the invigorating air. It is the same with the system of the human sufferer from lack of air and oxygen. The latter, when absorbed into the system in the quantity, and of the quality, provided by the new cure, literally "consumes" catarrhal secretions.

The new cure quickly relieves, and in Nature's good time cures, because it increases the individual's air-supply. First, it re-opens and expands the partly-closed air-passages and cavities. Thus, it prepares the way for the intake of the larger supply of air absolutely necessary to catarrh freedom.

Thus, your breathing function is perfected; thus, too, does the 10 to 40 per cent. enlarged air-capacity of your body insure the elimination of the catarrhal secretions. Thus, too, by the re-opening of the air-passages are unnatural growths made to disappear.

AND IT IS THIS GREATLY INCREASED INFLOW OF FRESH AND PROPERLY FILTERED, WARMED, AND MOISTENED AIR THAT IS SO POWERFUL TO CURE CATARRH, ADENOIDS, AND OTHER NOSE-BREATHING DIFFICULTIES. Inflowing with all the 15lb. to the square-inch pressure of the outside atmosphere, the closed-in—because more or less disused—nasal air-passages and cavities expand to their natural size and air-supplying capacity. The fresh air is in itself powerfully Anti-Catarrhal in effect.



This outspoken book explains how to employ Nature's Chief Medicine—Air—to conquer all the above conditions of bodily inefficiency. This Presentation Book will be read with the deepest interest by all who are logically-minded. "Respiratory Re-Education" is the principle it advocates and explains in full detail, and with the aid of unusually clear diagrams, maps, and plans.

Undoubtedly a most powerful factor in the success of the new cure is the fact that it may be employed DURING THE WHOLE OF THE NIGHT without discomfort or any inconvenience. This all-night period of treatment contrasts strongly with the mere two or three minutes of treatment with the now obsolete spraying methods.

Lennox Browne, F.R.S.E., Senior Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, etc., says: "Opinion is each day becoming more indisputable that in the condition of the nasal fossæ, which constitute the first avenues of the natural breathway, is to be found the key to the right understanding and successful treatment of the majority of faucial, pharyngeal, and laryngeal diseases."

The success of the new treatment is immediately obvious to all who try it.

In one night the nose, ears, tongue, and throat give every evidence of the good work of the cure.

In one week the nose and mouth both cease to discharge catarrhal matter. The brain, eyes, ears, and nose feel clear, the mouth and throat clean and sweet, and the taste and smell become as keen as ever.

The book explanatory of the new cure contains some most remarkable illustrations, which help to make strikingly clear the common-sense principle upon which the new cure is founded, and which cure, be it noted, is, by all who have looked into the matter, expected to vastly decrease the number of painful and costly operations hitherto considered to afford the only chance of cure of nasal obstructions and inflamed membrane.

ANOTHER 25,000 FREE BOOKS.

The aim of the compilers of the book has been to thoroughly inform sufferers as to the cause and method of cure of their complaint. All who study the book will readily agree with this. As will be seen in the book, the method of the new cure is as delightfully simple as it is effective in its results, and now is the time of year when the work of cure is most easily and quickly accomplished.

In the book is explained how to stop:—

Nasty Dropping in the Throat.
Head Stuffiness.
Nose Stuffiness.
Throat Dryness.
Loss of Smell.
Spitting of Thick Phlegm.
Discharge from Nose.
Loss of Taste, or Offensive Taste in Mouth.
Chest and Lung Weakness.
Catarrhal (Coated) Tongue.
Catarrhal Deafness.
Gurgling in Ears.
Snapping Noises in Ears.
Bad Breath.
Voice Troubles.
Physical and Mental Dulness Arising from Respiratory Inefficiency.
Asthmatic and Consumptive Tendencies.

An Edition of 25,000 copies of the book has been published for FREE DISTRIBUTION, and all who wish to quickly cure catarrh, adenoids, or other nose-breathing trouble, catarrhal deafness or head noises, or asthmatic or consumptive tendencies arising from chest or lung weakness, should send (or call) for a copy. A penny stamp should be sent to defray postage. The address from which the free copies of the book may be obtained is—The Publishers, "Respiratory Re-Education," 37, Rhycol Buildings, 130, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

SHAMS. II.

THE SOUTH-WEST LONDON TRADESMEN'S PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

There is a man named Cook, William Edward Cook, who describes himself as the Secretary of this Society who has been in Southampton lately fleecing simple tradesmen. From what we learn, he has got all he is likely to get from Southampton, but our information is that he is working other towns on the same lines, and so we warn the public against him.

Cook invites tradesmen to become, for a guinea, Life Members of the South-West London Tradesmen's Provident Society, Ltd., or Associates, who pay 5s. and get fewer privileges. The guinea enables a member to take advantage of the expert skill of the Society in drawing attractive advertisements, and 5 per cent. rebate from scale charges is promised. "Claims of all kinds are investigated and carried through County Courts or Common Law, King's Bench or Chancery Division." "Debts, outstanding or current, are collected." "Legal advice given on all legal matters, civil or criminal." And the following is perhaps the gem of the lot:—

> Mortgages a Speciality. £70,000 (Seventy Thousand Pounds) waiting for Investment at 4 per cent. per annum.

A Southampton tradesman tells us that he was induced to be a member, and he handed Mr. Cook various accounts to be collected. Some of these accounts have been collected, but Mr. Cook has omitted to remit. For example, we have before us one of his receipts, dated January 9th last, another January 23rd last, a third the 15th February last, all for moneys received on account of our correspondent, but none of these moneys has been paid over to him. Then our correspondent's firm, with that touching faith in human goodness which characterises so many tradesmen, did work for Mr. Cook, or his Society, to the tune of £10. Failing to get paid they sued him in the Southampton Court, and got judgment, but that was throwing good money after bad. For when they sought to enforce the judgment they found that Mr. Cook's Southampton office was closed, and that the landlord was moaning for rent due. We have before us other receipts given by Cook for accounts entrusted to him for collection by another Southampton tradesman, and for which he has failed to account.

It is not surprising to learn that this man's doings in Southampton have caused considerable indignation, and a meeting of those he has duped—he got 70 or 80 members altogether—was held, at which Mr. Cook was duly denounced. An amusing incident connected with the meeting is a letter written by this impudent rogue to two of the tradesmen who attended it. It is dated from 328, High Road, Balham, S.W., and runs as below:—

> Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you jointly and severally that you have this day been expelled from membership of this Society by my Directors, sitting as a Board, duly convened and held. And that the said resolution electing you as members has been cancelled and that your liability of One Pound will cease to exist twelve months from date above written.
>
> I am, yours obediently,
> For South-West London Tradesmen's Provident Society, Ltd,
> (Signed) WM. ED. COOK.

This illiterate scrawl is supposed to mean that the tradesmen to whom it is addressed were expelled because they attended the meeting of protest referred to above, but, although expelled, their liability for membership fees appears to hold good for another year.

Of course it is all very ridiculous, but it has its serious side too. Here is a man going from town to town, working under a high-sounding title, and defrauding tradesmen, defrauding them by accepting subscriptions for a membership he must know will be of no value to them, and defrauding them by accepting the collection of accounts which he does collect but fails to account for to his principals. It seems to us that Cook's doings require the attention of the police. It is really nothing less than a scandal that such persons should be allowed to continue to fleece the public with impunity.

DO YOU WANT A GUINEA?

IF SO,

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST IS NOW OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, 29th July, 1909

The Full Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Commonwealth Oil Corporation, Limited

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900).

CAPITAL .. .. £800,000.

500,000 Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each fully paid	£500,000
225,007 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each fully paid or credited as such	£225,007
74,993 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each (unissued)	£74,993
5½ per Cent. First Debentures already issued	£150,000
6 per Cent. Convertible Debenture Stock £400,000, Present issue...	£300,000

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BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 64, Old Broad Street, London; and Sydney.
THE LONDON AND JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED. Head Offices: 5, Princes Street, London, E.C., and Branches.
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, 62, Lombard Street, London, E.C. (Head Office: Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.)

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BROKERS.

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Messrs. T. AND G. IRVINE, 7, India Buildings, Liverpool.

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SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

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ISSUE OF £300,000 6 P.C. CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURE STOCK
(PART OF AN AUTHORISED ISSUE OF £400,000.)

Bearing Interest at 6 per cent. per annum, and conferring upon the Holders the right to convert into Shares at par on or before the 1st July, 1913.

Payable as follows:—

On Application	2s 6d.	In respect of each £1 applied for.
On Allotment	2s. 6d.	
On the 1st October, 1909	5s.	
On the 1st January, 1910	5s.	
On the 1st April, 1910	5s	

THE COMMONWEALTH OIL CORPORATION, LIMITED, offer for Subscription £300,000 Convertible Debenture Stock, carrying interest as above.

The registered holder of any part of this issue of Convertible Debenture Stock will be entitled at any time before the 1st July, 1913, to exchange his Debenture Stock for fully paid-up Shares in the Company of equal amount. Each registered holder desiring to convert his holding into Shares will receive 5 Preferred and 3 Deferred Ordinary Shares for every £8 of Debenture Stock, and any balance of his holding which is incapable of being so divided will be paid for by the Company in cash at par. Steps are being taken to obtain the approval of the Court for the necessary increase of Capital.

NOTE.—5 to 3 is the proportion of the Preferred and Deferred Ordinary Shares in the Capital of the Company.

If not converted this Stock will be redeemable at par on the 1st day of January, 1920, but the Corporation reserves the right to redeem the whole or any part thereof by purchasing Stock in the open market, or at any time after the 1st July, 1913, at £5 per cent. premium, upon giving six months' notice of its intention to do so.

Interest on the Stock will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and the 1st July.

The Debenture Stock will form a general floating charge, ranking next, after the £150,000 First Debentures upon the Undertaking and Assets of the Company, including the Newnes' Junction and Wolgan Railway, Locomotives and Rolling Stock, Oil Wagons, Buildings, the Torbane Railway, Freehold and Leasehold Land, Crude Oil Works, Oil Refineries, Candle Works, Coke Ovens, Machine Shops, Electric Power Plant, Dwellings, Developed Coal and Oil Shale Mines, and over thirty-five square miles of Oil Shale and Coal-bearing Lands.

This advertisement is made for the purpose of information only, and is not an invitation to subscribe for the shares in the Company, which are offered for subscription by the full Prospectus above-mentioned upon the basis of and with reference to which application must be made.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, the Bank of New South Wales, 64, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.; the London and Joint Stock Bank, 5, Princes Street, London, and Branches; and the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard Street, London, E.C., head offices, Edinburgh, and Branches; or the offices of the Corporation, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.
SPECIALLY MIS-REPORTED FOR "JOHN BULL."

BY RICHARD MORTON.

(Mr. Morton Satirises our Police Court Proceedings.)

ALLEGED POVERTY IN THE RICH CITY OF LONDON.

At the Munching House Police Court, before Alderman Sir Capel Court, a poor, white-faced, starved-looking woman named Nelly Hopeless, was charged with placing herself in a position to receive alms, and also with attempting to hang herself.

The evidence was to the effect that the prisoner was seen leaning against a wall in Aldgate, when a gentleman passing by put some money into her hand, whereupon she was promptly taken into custody.

The Alderman: A highly judicious step to take. Had she been allowed to remain there until now, she might have imposed upon a lot of people.

Prisoner: Please, sir, I was not begging. I had no idea anybody was giving me anything till a gentleman thrust a copper into my hand.

The Alderman: We ought to have that man here for aiding and abetting. This promiscuous charity is very dreadful. Giving money away ought to be put down with a strong hand. (To the woman): Why were you leaning against the wall?

Prisoner: I was tired—dead weary.

The Alderman: Ah, intoxicated, I suppose. Why isn't she charged with that?

Prisoner: Sir, I have never been drunk in my life. I do not know what it is to drink. Besides, heaven knows I haven't the money.

The Alderman: All you beggars make plenty of money. Why don't you lead an honest life?

Prisoner: Sir, you are cruel and insulting. Never a word has been said against me before, and my character is as good as yours and just as precious.

The Alderman: The idea of making such a comparison! This is very disgraceful.

The Inspector: She tried to hang herself with these (producing a pair of stockings).

The Alderman: Dear me! Don't you search prisoners and take away all such deadly weapons? It is highly dangerous to leave them alone with such things in their possession.

Prisoner: They are my stockings.

The Alderman (sternly): Madam, how dare you say such a thing? You are talking to a man who knows. I know what stockings are, because I have seen them in shops. These other thing the inspector produces are lethal implements, used for quite another purpose. The whole case assumes such a very serious aspect that I am at a loss how to deal with you. However, since you say you are poor, I feel that the Cit of London would be better without you, and if you promise to leave the City I will let you off with a warning, and shall feel pleased to get rid of you. Will you go away?

Prisoner (weeping): I'll be glad to. But where am I to go?

The Alderman: That has nothing to do with me. You are discharged.

A man at the back of the Court cried out, "Ain't there a poor box to help the poor creature?" He was promptly conducted to the street.

AMUSING VACCINATION CASE.—WHAT IS CONSCIENCE?.

There was a humorous scene at Mid-London Court yesterday, when a working man applied, as he said, for a "Vaccination Exemption Order."

The Magistrate: I can't give you a certificate.

Applicant: But I have a conscientious objection.

The Magistrate: Yes, but have you a conscience? I think that is missing. What are your grounds, if you have any?

Applicant: On the ground that I believe it would be detrimental to the health of my child.

The Magistrate: Ah, you have learned to repeat that like a parrot, but it won't do.

Applicant: The other magistrate at this Court would give me a certificate at once.

The Magistrate: Come and see him to-morrow. I have no doubt he will be highly delighted to have the privilege of meeting such an intelligent creature as yourself.

Applicant: But I shall lose another day's work.

The Magistrate: And you ought to be proud to suffer for the sake of your conscience. It is a thing that troubles us all at times, and you appear to have got it bad. Sorry my conscience won't let me help you. Next.

FARROW'S BANK LIMITED.

THE PEOPLE'S BANK.

Chairman and Managing Director - - - - - - - - - Mr. THOMAS FARROW.

BANKING FACILITIES FOR ALL CLASSES.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS.—2½ per cent. Interest allowed on Credit Balances.
POPULAR DEPOSIT NOTES.—3 to 5 per cent. Interest.
THRIFT ACCOUNTS.—5 per cent. Interest.

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Send or call for 40-page Illustrated Booklet, which deals with the History, Work, and Success of the Bank.

OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Chairman, Board of Guardians, Tipton, South Staffs.

SIR,—I trust that by this time you have induced the members of your Board to institute an inquiry into the disgraceful and revolting incident surrounding the death of William Bunting, who at one time worked at a local colliery, but had been without employment since it was shut down. Little by little the household goods had been sold to save his wife and six children from hunger. At one time, Bunting's was a typical example of a prosperous British workman's home, even to the detail of a piano. But, as you are aware, the man fell ill, and the things had to go. The Vicar of the parish, Mr. de Vine, kept the wolf from the door during the husband's illness. (All the wife had from the parish during the three weeks her husband lay at death's door, was seven shillings.) At last Bunting lay dead. How was he to be buried? The kindly vicar again came to the woman's assistance, and through his offices a parish coffin was obtained for the rapidly decomposing body. This was on the Thursday night. The next day further application was made for parochial assistance to carry out the funeral, but it was refused. "Other people can gather money to bury their husbands, and why can't you?" the Relieving Officer is reported to have told the widow. "The cost of the burial would be 12s. 6d." The Vicar eventually succeeded in inducing the Poor Law people to undertake the burial of the body, which was carried out of the stricken house on Monday and thence to its grave "in a worse condition," says the local reporter, "than a decent-minded man would convey a slaughtered horse, for the horse on its truck would at least be covered. Four men from the cemetery came to convey the corpse thither, and each man brought a bicycle with him, so that if poor Bunting had not even a canvas cover for his coffin, his bier was at least accompanied by a procession of bicycles, each man holding his bike with one hand, while he pushed the so-called bier with the other." The exudations and effluvia from the coffin as it was pushed along are said to have been sickening. I will add that as Bumble treated the poor widow and her children before and at her husband's death, so did he treat them after the dead had been put into the grave. For many days he left them without food, and they would undoubtedly have starved if the local doctor had not taken pity upon them. "We can allow you nothing more; I think you've been enough expense to the parish already," the Relieving Officer is reported to have said. The attitude of this official towards the poor woman was throughout so callous that it almost seems to be vindictive, and if the newspaper report be true, and he used the expressions mentioned, I do not hesitate to say that he is a disgrace to his office, and ought to be turned out of it neck and crop. Tipton is not a large place, and the Guardians, individually and collectively, must have known all that was happening. The story is a revolting scandal which, in my judgment, demands the most searching inquiry.

JOHN BULL.

To the Members of the Tonbridge District Council.

SIRS,—I understand that you have decided to forbid Sunday gardening on local allotments. It is to deal, amongst other things, with such narrow-minded Sabbatarian bigots as yourselves that I am forming the John Bull League. Meanwhile, I desire to express my unmitigated contempt for your action, which is calculated to deprive certain industrious working men of one of their most innocent and profitable recreations. Francis Bacon, of whom you may possibly have heard, tells us in one of his essays that "God Almighty first planted a garden; and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures; it is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man." Just temper your sour Sabbatarianism with those broad and truly religious sentiments, and then confess to the pettiness and bigotry of your decision. By the way, are any of you in the greengrocery business?

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Grierson, Bravo Cottage, Liverpool.

DEAR MR. GRIERSON,—Just a word of sympathy with you in the loss of your fourteen-year-old son, who was drowned while trying to save the life of a friend. It is hard to lose a brave boy, for brave boys usually make brave men. But even the memory of your loss will not preclude a thought of gladness when you recall what was said in the long ago, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." It was worth while having such a son.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Tunstall, Agent, Horton, Bradford.

DEAR SIR,—You are the sort of Englishman I like to hear about. Cycling home from Wetherby races, you saw seven ruffians in a landau, taking it in turns to unmercifully beat the horse. You got off your bicycle, seized the reins, and saw that the hocks of the animal were covered with blisters, some of them cut open and bleeding, and that it bore other signs of brutal ill-treatment. I most heartily approve of your taking the whip in your own hands, and laying it about the man nearest to you as hard as you had seen him laying it about the horse. As you said, my friend, "it's a pity he didn't happen to be stripped." If there were a few more people like you about the streets, there would be less cruelty to animals, whose only protection is the kindness and consideration of the men and women they serve.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chief Constable, Birmingham.

MY DEAR CHIEF OF POLICE,—Have been much entertained by news received from a friend in your delightful city of your ingenious effects to capture the man in the street making a book within the meaning of the Act. Heard of all sorts of little police traps to this end. Heard of policemen disguising themselves as waiters, railway porters, tramway conductors, sailors, rag-and-bone men, organ-grinders, scissor-grinders, and performers on the trombone, also as old women; but I think you can fairly take credit, my dear sir, of being the first C.C. on earth who has ever thought of nailing a street bookmaker by making up his policemen as gentlemen in holy orders. I am told that the defendant in the case was "quite surprised" on being run in by the supposed clergyman, and the effect upon the populace must have been delightful to behold. You will now have to fit up your officers with a change of garments for the next special effort. I feel sure it would tickle the whole town to see the sinner gathered in by an alleged bishop or a supposititious Salvation Army lassie. For another change you might make up one policeman as Joe and another as Jesse, just to see how they would go. In the meantime, may I hope you have had the blessing of the Church?

JOHN BULL.

To Bart Kennedy, Reigate.

DEAR BART,—At a recent open-air meeting at Reigate, in support of Women's Suffrage, you were in fine form. You disclosed a humour and wisdom hitherto unsuspected even by your fiercest admirers. But you might with advantage concede the fact that all who have the bitter misfortune to differ from you on the suffrage question need not necessarily be fools and idiots. You declared that the men who objected to the suffrage were those "who earned 18s. a week and couldn't keep a woman." Whereupon a wit in the admiring audience was heard loudly to declare that he "wouldn't keep your old woman for eighty bob a week." Of course, this was lamentably coarse, and could have come only from a rude person. But you "asked for it," as they say. Subsequently, when your voice could once more be heard above the enthusiastic cheering of the surrounding populace, you expressed the opinion that all opponents of women's suffrage were thick in the head. For goodness' sake don't indulge in any more of these public exhibitions. Let the shoemaker stick to his last, and the tramp journalist to his journalism and his tramping.

JOHN BULL.

Don Jaime, "*de jure* King of France, Spain and Navarre."

Venture to tender deep sympathy with you in your loss. Now is your hour. Save Spain.

BULL.

W. T. Stead, c/o Killjoy and Julia, London.

You are now pleading for the life of the murderer of a distinguished official who had shown him every possible kindness. If your advice taken, adhesion will be given to the theory every Indian entitled to shoot every white man at sight.

BULL.

Bleriot, London.

Hearty congratulations; but weren't you just a *little* lucky? *Nous verrons.*

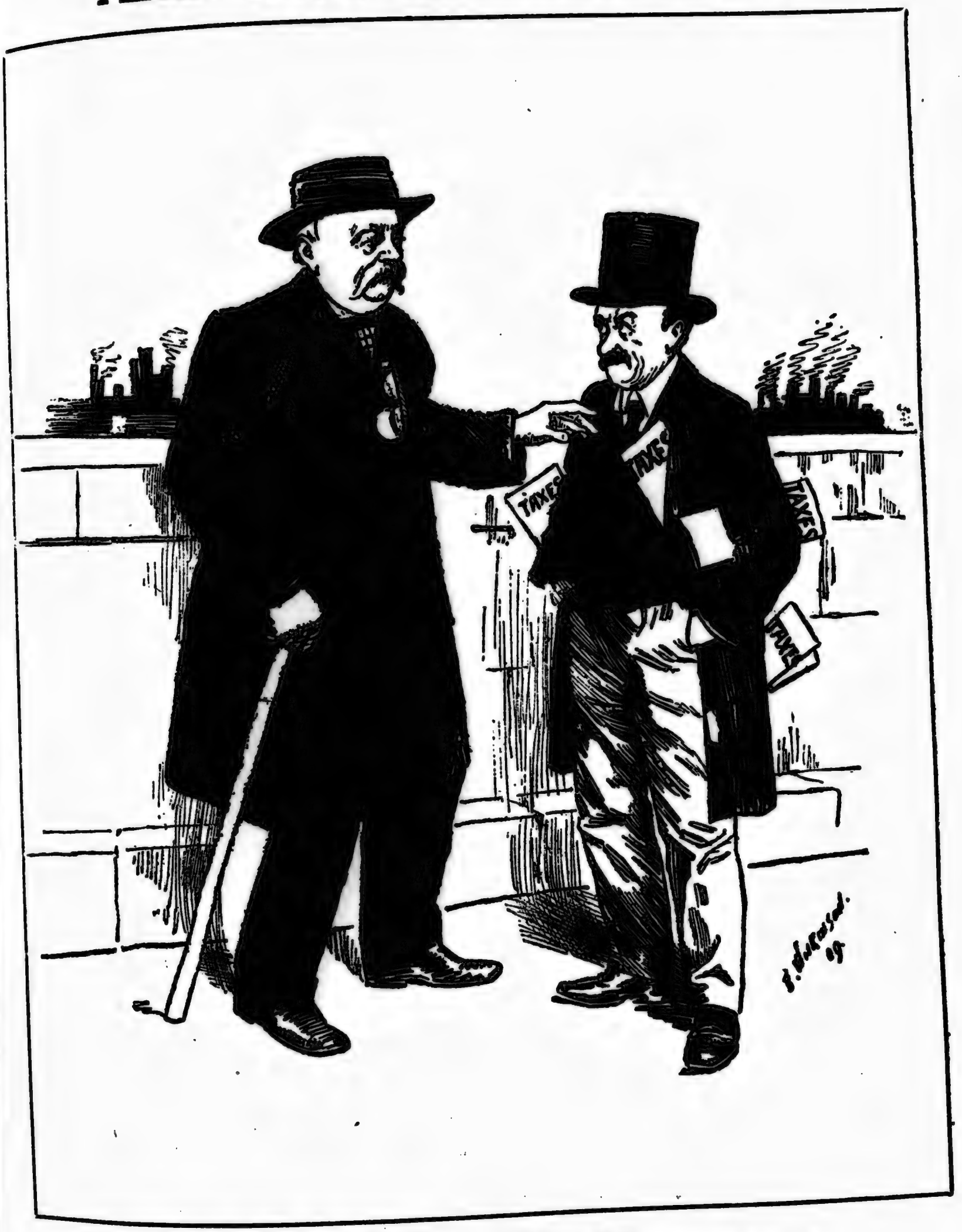
BULL.

Latham, Sangatte.

Hard lines not to be the first over after all that fuss. I expect you could not bear to tear yourself away from all those bevies of beauties who surrounded you in the pictures of the press. Anyhow, you can't complain that you didn't have a good start. Now you will have to hurry over and beat the record.

BULL.

"PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES," &c.



VETERAN: "I bled for my country thirty years ago, sir."
TAXPAYER: "I thoroughly sympathise with you. I am bleeding for it NOW."

IN THE CITY.

It is requested that all letters to be answered on the City pages be addressed to the City Editor.

Letters requiring an answer in the next issue must be received not later than Friday.

We shall be obliged to Secretaries of Insurance and other Companies if hey will send us their reports when issued, and, from time to time, any other information which may be of public interest.

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

Many will have heard with regret that the London and Westminster is about to be amalgamated with the London and County. It was the first of the joint-stock banks, and is the last of them with a purely Metropolitan business. The fusion means a gigantic institution—save Lloyd's the largest in the country. Its liabilities to the public will be over £77,000,000. The proportion of the assets to these liabilities in cash is 15·6 per cent.; investments, 17·2 per cent.; money at call, 15·2 per cent. and discounts and advances, 54·8 per cent. The current deposits and other accounts of Lloyd's amount to £75,573,378; those of the London County and Westminster Bank (as the title is to be) to £72,586,271.

The London and Westminster was established in 1834. Until then it had been considered that no joint-stock bank could be established within a radius of sixty-five miles of London. Having discovered that this notion was erroneous, Mr. James William Gilbart set to work to form a model one, and the result was the London and Westminster Bank. The scheme was strenuously opposed, not only by the private bankers, but especially by the Bank of England, who considered that the "upstart" was infringing their monopoly, an opinion quickly upset by the then Solicitor-General, who advised that any number of joint-stock banks might be established, or might have been, since the foundation of the Bank of England, provided they did not issue notes within sixty-five miles of the Metropolis.

The London and Westminster started with a paid-up capital of £50,000 (it is now £2,800,000), and commenced business at 38, Throgmorton Street, E.C., on March 10th, 1834. Previously they had applied to the Bank of England for permission to have a drawing account, which was refused. They also asked the Committee of Bankers to be allowed a seat in the Clearing House. That, too, was refused. They only gained admittance in June, 1854.

The *Statist* is mistaken in saying that the London and Westminster "has acquired practically no business by means of amalgamations with other banking institutions," the only outside businesses acquired being that of the Berks Union Banking Company in 1851, and that of Messrs. F. Burt and Co., foreign bankers, in 1907. Our contemporary has overlooked the absorption by the London and Westminster of Young and Son, of Southwark, who gave up on account of the death of the latter; Strahan, Paul and Bates; Jones, Lloyd and Co.; Commercial Bank of London; Unity Joint Stock Bank; and the London and Middlesex Bank.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Mr. Frank W. Morse, late vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, sailed recently for New York, after an extended European trip. He stated before leaving that he was more strongly convinced than ever that the Grand Trunk Pacific will be a great success, and that the people who have charge of the work will achieve all he ever hoped for—and more. He had the best of authority for stating that the parts of the line now in operation are securing traffic far in excess of original expectations, and is convinced that the Grand Trunk securities will enhance in value after the opening of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and be equal to those of the established Trans-continental lines of the American Continent in much less time than it has taken the older lines to reach their value. He believes the proprietors will find that they are the owners of a Trans-continental railway free of burden, for the reason that the guarantee which has been given jointly with the Government will never be required, but he thinks a Canadian board of directors, with intelligent knowledge of affairs on the spot, is essential. It, of course, rests with the owners of the property to decide upon the wisdom or otherwise of the centralisation of control in London.

M. B. FOSTER AND SONS.

We have received a further circular from Mr. Vanderpant, in which he calls upon Preference shareholders to support him at the forthcoming meeting of the members of this company. Notwithstanding their failure to secure a three-quarters majority of the Preference shareholders in favour of the scheme for a reduction of capital, the directors petitioned the Court for approval of the scheme, and Mr. Justice Warrington ordered that meetings of both classes of shareholders should be held. The substance of the objections taken by Mr. Vanderpant to the proposals of the directors will be found in the following paragraph from his circular letter. They seem to us very weighty:—

> Under the Memorandum of Association our shares are preferential not only as to dividend, but as to capital. Under the official scheme we are asked to give up £1 per share of capital, £1 15s. per share of accumulated dividends, and half of our preferential rights for the future. For what? A promise that the Directors will recommend the Ordinary shareholders to consent to £1 per share of our capital being returned to us! As a further reward for our complaisance, we are offered a slight re-adjustment of voting power, which must, under existing circumstances, prove a mockery, and which is undoubtedly meant to be such. It is proposed that £128,000 of Preference capital shall have 24,000 votes, and that £25,000 of Ordinary capital shall have 20,000 votes: in other words, £100 of Preference capital, will be entitled to 18 votes and £100 of Ordinary capital to 80 votes.

THE KING'S TREASURY GOLD MINES.

Last week we referred to some remarkable features of this undertaking. As the result of enquiry we are now enabled to give its history. Once upon a time—to be precise, in October, 1894—there was registered a company called the Carlyle Gold Mines. It was formed to acquire some claims in West Australia. Whether it ever did so we cannot say, but in March, 1897, it was reconstructed and amalgamated with the Yilgarn Goldfields, under the title of the Carlyle Consolidated Gold Mines. This company acquired a property in Mexico. In 1901 the company was again reconstructed—this time under the name of the King's Treasury Gold Mines, and was supposed to have acquired certain "properties" in West Africa—a map and description of which we have before us. Nothing more was heard of the company till the present year, when it burst forth again, but with a different lot of "properties," and attempts are now being made to market its 10s. shares at 2s. 6d. We say "its" shares. Perhaps we ought to ask "whose?"

THE CHORLEY AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS.

Of this proposition, which involves no less a capitalisation than £460,000 (share capital £300,000, debentures £160,000), none of the usual information prescribed by the Companies Acts is available at Somerset House.

The prospectus was issued publicly, and on the 27th April last it was announced through the Press that the "appeal to the public to subscribe for its Preference share capital [£200,000 was offered] and Debenture stock [£160,000] has met with a huge success, and the lists closed last Tuesday evening for both London and the Provinces." It was pointed out that the Debenture stockholders had for every sovereign invested in the Company two sovereigns' worth of security; also that of the Preference share capital, three-quarters of the issue (viz., £150,000) was placed on the Continent some months before the Company was brought out.

Further it was stated that "the closing quotations on the Stock Exchange on Friday, 30th April, were as follows:—

> 5 per cent. Mortgage Debenture stock, £45 paid, 2½–¾ prem.
>
> 7 per cent. £4 Preference shares, £1 paid, ¼ prem.
>
> 5 per cent. Preferred Ordinary, £10 shares, fully paid, 9¾–10.
>
> £10 Ordinary shares, fully paid, 10–10¼."

At the time it was reported that the Company had gone to allotment on the 1st May, and also that shares, including a parcel of vendor's shares, were being offered for sale, but up to last week the return of allotment had not been filed at Somerset House.

On the 17th June a declaration was lodged that shares *subject to* payment in cash had been allotted to the amount of only £2,800, and this is the only information available. It will be interesting to learn what further information will be lodged in support of the foregoing optimisitic statements, and when it may be expected.

JAGERSFONTEIN.

We understand that the directors will shortly resume payment of dividends—which have lately been passed.

We have received a copy of the report of the London Trading Bank for the half-year ended June 30th. The directors recommend a dividend for the half year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and they are able to mention that a considerable number of new accounts have been opened during the half-year.

We direct attention to the prospectus of the Commonwealth Oil Corporation, Ltd., to be found on another page. We know of no Colonial commercial venture with greater potentialities.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

MAYBLOSSOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.—H. S. (Liverpool).—We understand that an influential group have just identified themselves with this De Kaap enterprise. The company owns two mines, one, the Bullion, possessing 103 claims, and the other, the Easterr, which owns 113 claims. Trial crushings upon the former property have given very encouraging results. A main shaft is down and several prospecting shafts. On the Eastern Mine a great deal of development work has been done, and a large tonnage of payable ore is exposed. The property is conveniently situated, the Delagoa Railway running within a mile of its southern boundary. There is an ample supply of water for mill purposes, with plenty of labour at cheaper wages than rule on the Rand. The company's capital is £150,000 in £1 shares, which at their present price seem a promising speculative purchase. They look like going higher.

PREMIUM BONDS.—SCOTTIE (Glasgow).—We have no reason to question the honesty of the drawings. A. S. (Warwick).—It depends upon the price. Let us know what it is.

PREMIUM BOND COMPANY.—W. A. M. (Belfast).—There is nothing to prevent your starting a company for the purpose of selling Premium Bonds, but we think you might be better employed.

PALACE RESTAURANTS, LIMITED.—C. H. M. (London).—As matters stand, you are liable for the calls. Pay up.

BRITISH EQUITABLE BOND AND MORTGAGE CORPORATION.—E. B. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy).—We should take the offer.

REYNOLDS GOLD MINING COMPANY.—W. R. (Ebbw Vale).—We have no information on the point.

COMMONWEALTH OIL COMPANY.—ENZONIAN.—We think well of its future.

LAUNDRY SHARES.—R. W. (Tooting).—We should sell, if you can get a purchaser.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—W. F. J. (Bromley).—We are not able to recommend it.

HUNGARIAN LOTTERY.—A. G. (Paddington).—Better leave it alone.

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY.—R. R. S. (Eastbourne).—We note that a machine for which you gave £47 5s. can now be got for £13. There are several test actions preparing for trial, but none as yet tried. We return Messrs. Beardall and Co.'s letter. R. L. (South Shields).—Ditto.

ROYAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—H. L. G. (Newton Abbot).—We have no information respecting it.

THE LONDON SCOTTISH STOCK EXCHANGE.—A. J. (Warrington).—Have nothing to do with it.

OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS.—J. G. C. (Cardiff).—No.

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—I. H. (Irvine).—Yes, we believe it to be true.

ANTHRACITE COLLIERY.—CONSTANT READER (Llanelly).—We do not know anyone who wants to buy "an Anthracite Colliery, good quality."

THOMAS MOY, LIMITED.—O. Y. (Colchester).—We regret that we have not the information you require.

EASTWOOD AND COMPANY.—CUIVIS (Liverpool).—We are obliged by your letter. Naturally these people, and others like them, have no friendly feeling for JOHN BULL.

PAQUIN SHARES.—NOVICE (Topsham).—We know no sufficient reason for the fall.

ASHANTI GOLD COAST.—J. S. (Preston).—Yes, but, of course, it would be a very speculative purchase.

TWO BUILDING SOCIETIES.—M. A. (Balham).—Both are good.

HAPGOODS, LIMITED.—F. E. D. (Ipswich).—Our inquiries have induced the opinion that they carry on their business honestly.

GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL SECURITIES CORPORATION.—BONDS (Crouch End).—We do not.

EAST RAND AMALGAMATED GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED.—H. D. (London).—We have no information.

MUNICIPAL PERMANENT INVESTMENT SOCIETY.—M. A. (Balham).—We know nothing against it.

SAFETY OF BANK.—ANXIOUS TO KNOW (Manchester).—All three banks are absolutely safe.

THE MIDLAND COLLECTING COMPANY.—DILEMMA (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We know nothing against it.

R. A. SMITH AND COMPANY.—FAIRPLAY (Stafford).—We have read your lengthy letter bearing upon your dealings with Messrs. Smith and Co., and are glad to learn from it that you have no cause of complaint.

WINAAD PERSEVERANCE ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.—S. H. R. (Folkestone).—The answer to both your questions is in the negative.

"SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS."—R. H. L. (Kendal).—We advise you to have nothing to do with the scheme outlined in the document you send us.

VIGILANT INVESTMENT REGISTRY.—S. E. S. (London).—We have no information on the point.

ERECTION OF HOUSE.—R. W. (Fulham).—We think you would have difficulty in obtaining the money for the purchase of land and the erection of a house upon the conditions named by you.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON COMPANY.—H. B. M. (London).—The reserves are small in view of the large capital and trade fluctuation, but, if you are content to run some risk of considerable fluctuations in yield, these shares have their attractions.

CIVIL SERVICE BANK.—CIVILIAN (Derby).—So far as we know, they conduct their business properly.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHARES.—A. S. W. (Nunhead).—We think you had better hold for the present.

MINT BONDS.—J. G. S. (Glasgow).—Do not pay anything more; the bonds are of no value.

CARLTON AND RITZ HOTELS, LIMITED.—ISABEL (Upper Clapton).—These debentures are well secured. We see no advantage in selling just now.

THE WIRRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.—ALBINO (Aberdeen).—They have no value.

PRINTING MACHINERY COMPANY.—L. W. (Southampton).—It is very doubtful, but we will look into the matter.

DEVON PORTLAND BONDS.—XMAS (Southend-on-Sea).—We think not.

THE GARDEN CITY.—A. N. H. (Leighton Buzzard).—From what we hear, we think it would be.

CLAYTON AND SHUTTLEWORTH.—F. W. F. (Leicester).—We think them a promising speculative purchase.

SILATI GOLD MINING COMPANY.—SHAREHOLDER (Herne Hill).—The report is not a cheerful document. The £6,138 4s. 11d. seems to represent "London expenditure" over a series of years. The expenditure under this head for the year ending June last was £328 10s. 3d.

VALUE OF MINING SHARES.—C. D. (Minehead).—Very little.

INVESTMENT OF £300.—BEQUILLE (Tooting).—A good deal depends upon whether you want debentures, preference shares, or ordinary. Indiarubber and Gutta Percha 4 per Cent. Mortgage Debentures would give you a trifle over 4 per cent., United Alkali Cumulative Preference shares would give you over 6½ per cent, and the Ordinary shares of Jas. Nelson and Son, at their present price, would give you over 9 per cent.; but the last-named would be very speculative, the price varying very widely. Why not JOHN BULL Six per Cents.?

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—A. C. (Clacton-on-Sea).—We really do not see what you have to complain of. You have not kept up your payments, and, when payments fall in arrear, they leave the policyholder entirely at the mercy of the company concerned.

INSURANCE ENQUIRIES.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—L. B. (London).—Safe, yes; it is in the front rank. The most cursory examination of the annual valuation statement you send us would have satisfied you that the company is highly prosperous.

THREE INSURANCE COMPANIES.—W. W. R. (Mitcham).—For your purpose, we think the Norwich Union would be the best.

COLONIAL MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—H. L. (Whitechapel).—It is a first-class office, much preferable to the other one you name.

TEMPLE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—R. S. (Cardiff).—No.

THE WORKMEN'S LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—S. F. (Herne Bay).—We are not much in love with this sort of society.

ISLANDS INSURANCE COMPANY.—R. W. A. (Walsall).—Certainly not.

PROFITS AND INCOME INSURANCE COMPANY.—ANXIOUS (Paddington).—With reference to our previous answer, we may mention that all the sickness and accident policies, whether or not combined with endowment and life assurance, are guaranteed for the entire duration by the Legal and General Assurance Society, which, as you are probably aware, is one of the strongest institutions in the country.

COSMOPOLITAN ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—DOUBTFUL (Chesham).—The company was established in 1903.

SUN INSURANCE COMPANY.—A. V. (Aberearn).—It is a first-class office. We do not gather the meaning of the other part of your letter.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. E. G. (Luton).—Yes, it is a company in the front rank.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—J. C. (Walsall).—The answer is in the negative, and the same reply is applicable to the Majestic Assurance Company.

ONE AND ALL MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—W. R. (Briton Ferry).—We are not prepared to recommend it at present.

LIFE POLICY.—C. J. J. (Bangor).—You have omitted to state your age. There are several offices which would be more profitable to you than the one named, which, however, is sound and good in every respect. Write to the Sun Life of Canada or the Mutual of Australasia, or the Mutual of New York for their rates and commissions.

PROGRESSIVE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—H. K. (Bristol).—You will find a full statement of the position in our issue of July 10th.

COUNTY LIVE STOCK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—W. O. (Lowestoft).—The association was established in 1896 with an authorised capital of £5,000, of which £1,000 is subscribed and paid up. The dividend for the last financial year was 5 per cent.

NATIONAL GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—PHŒNIX (Harrogate).—We know of no good reason why you should not do as you propose.

INSURANCE AGAINST COSTS.—P. L. (Cork).—We do not know of any insurance company that insures against expenses incurred in legal proceedings.

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—P. K. (Gorey).—We do not understand your question as to how this society is "financed."

GENERAL EXPENDITURE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—H. R. B. (Derby).—We have no information.

SELF-HELP INSURANCE COMPANY.—MANAGING DIRECTOR.—We are obliged to you for the copy of a special resolution increasing the nominal capital of your company by a further £5,000 by the issue of 800 Six per Cent. Preference shares of £5 each and 2,000 Five per Cent. "B" Preference shares of 10s. each.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—R. S. (Liverpool).—We should keep up the policy. The company is not doing as well as it should, but it is quite solvent.

THE CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—A REGULAR READER (Upper Tooting).—The Car and General is a good office, meets its claims promptly, and is quite up-to-date in every way. We prefer it to the other office you name.

SICKNESS INSURANCE.—W. C. S. (Stroud Green).—(1) We do not think that many offices insure against sickness of every kind. (2) The Ocean Accident is a good office. (3) The office you name is quite safe.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—H. L. H. (Stockport).—Safe, yes. Founded in 1843, its prosperity has been continuous, and its present position is one of exceptional strength.

NORTHERN EQUITABLE INSURANCE COMPANY.—P. D. (London).—Our attention has been directed to our statement that this company is "less than a year old." As a matter of fact, it was founded in 1907. It is a non-tariff office, and our information is that it is making vigorous growth.

UNITED LONDON AND SCOTTISH INSURANCE COMPANY.—C. S. L. (Palmers Green).—We think you may safely do so.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—A. P. (Sunderland).—The answer given to you under this head applied to another company. We need hardly say that the Australian Mutual Provident Society is a society of high standing, particulars of which we gave in our issue of July 10th.

HOUSE PURCHASE.—J. R. C. (Bolton).—Try the British Enterprise, of Ludgate Hill.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—F. S. W.—We should accept the fully-paid-up policy for £55, as described in your letter.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—B. (Lincoln's Inn).—It is hardly fair to say that only 2 per cent. is given upon moneys paid in respect of the certificate policy, seeing that this interest is added to by way of profits which have never been less than 10 per cent. (issued in the form of reversionary bonuses) of the amount of the annual premiums. When we look at the certificate contract from the standpoint of borrowing, the advantage to the certificate holder is obvious. For example, assuming a loan is obtained after five years for a sum equal to the face value of the certificate, the premiums paid thereafter are transferred annually to the credit of the loan account, thereby saving the borrower 5 per cent. interest upon the amount of premiums so transferred. We may say that the British Homes was the first company of its kind to introduce the plan of placing certificate premiums to the credit of the borrower's loan account, thereby reducing the payments for interest on the amount so transferred. The old system was to charge 5 per cent. interest in respect of the loan, and to credit the subscription at the maturity of the certificate only. It is, of course, open to any certificate holder, subject to medical examination, to transfer to the life assurance branch, when all payments previously made under the certificate are credited to the new policy. Any ground of complaint would seem to be removed by reason of the option given to transfer to the life branch, and we should recommend your clients to transfer to the Ideal Policy if they are of opinion that they are not well served by retaining the certificate.

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

COMMISSIONERS AND APPEALS.

With reference to our paragraphs of last week upon "The Finance Bill and Appeals," we have received the following criticism from a well-known solicitor. There is no doubt much in what our correspondent says about the undue influence of the Surveyor, but our main objection to the Budget proposal is that it enables the Inland Revenue Board to decide as to the propriety of its own action and to appoint its own Surveyors, from whom no appeal can be claimed. That the objection is weighty is proved by the fact that Mr. Lloyd George has undertaken to modify the clauses of the Finance Bill relating to this matter. Our correspondent writes:—

> In this week's JOHN BULL, under heading "Finance Bill and Appeals," you refer to appeals on Income Tax to Special Commissioners and to General Commissioners, and you speak of the General Commissioners dealing with the matter before them, and holding the scale fairly between the Inland Revenue Commissioners and the taxpayer.
>
> In theory this is so, but in practice the position is really very unfair. The practice is for the Surveyor to sit with the Commissioners, and the position is not one of plaintiff and defendant appearing before the Commissioners, for the taxpayer is invited in to state his case, and he is then asked to retire while the Commissioners deliberate upon the matter, the Surveyor, in almost universal practice, remaining with the Commissioners and advising them more in the nature of a magistrate's clerk than one of the litigants, and when a question of law arises, the Commissioners are almost invariably guided by the Surveyor.
>
> On the other hand, the Special Commissioners, though they are officials of Somerset House, deal with the matter quite independently of the Surveyor, and personally I should always advise an appeal to the Special Commissioners where the slightest question of law arises in the matter.
>
> Might I give you a concrete case? A client of mine had been employed by one firm in keeping the books at a salary of a few hundreds a year. He left this employment to keep books for a firm carrying on a totally different class of business at an enhanced salary. He made his return on the average of the three years. The Surveyor contended that the new employment was a new business, and that he was not entitled to take the average for three years, but must pay on the one year's return of his new business.
>
> Of course, this raised a point of law as to whether this was or was not a new business. The Surveyor declined to accept my client's contention, and assessed him on the new business. An appeal was taken to the Special Commissioners and they made mincemeat of the Surveyor, and allowed the appeal altogether; in fact, the Surveyor could not support his contention before the Special Commissioners. He had expected we should have taken the usual course, and gone before the General Commissioners, when he could have advised that in law this was a new business, and would have obtained a confirmation of his assessment.
>
> Personally, I think it a great shame that the Surveyor should be allowed to attend before the General Commissioners whilst they are deliberating, and I believe Mr. Asquith, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressed the opinion that they ought not to join in the deliberations but I am not quite sure of his exact words.

GREEN v. PADDINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

This was an action brought in the High Court by William Green to recover damages against the Paddington Council on the ground that it had allowed a standpipe close to his house (from which the Council's water-carts were filled) to remain in a defective state, with the result that the house became insanitary and he lost his lodgers.

The defence was, amongst other grounds, a denial that the Borough Council had allowed the water to escape, and also they denied that the plaintiff had suffered any damage. Every step throughout the whole proceedings was contested most strenuously by the Council, every obstacle was placed in the plaintiff's way of gaining information, and what was more extraordinary still was the fact that although well-known surveyors and a doctor (the plaintiff's witnesses) had seen the premises and declared them to be insanitary, and although the plaintiff's solicitors wrote to the Medical Officer of Health asking him to attend and inspect the premises, they were met with a blank refusal to do so on the ground that an action had been commenced. This attitude, taken up by the defendants, was commented upon strongly by Mr. Montague Lush, K.C., who appeared for the plaintiff at the trial. The case having gone on for two days in Court, and the plaintiff who is a poor man, having had to be assisted by some of the ratepayers of Paddington to brief counsel, overtures of settlement were made by the Paddington Council, and the case was settled for £200 and taxed costs. This happened on Wednesday, the 7th inst.

Now what happens is most extraordinary. Damages are payable immediately, and therefore one would expect a cheque to be sent within the course of a few days. The solicitor to the Council, however, made various excuses for not sending a cheque, and, when he did send it, it was made payable to the solicitors and crossed, and it was impossible therefore to get it cashed wthout further delay. Now comes the sequel. Although the Council had kept Mr. Green waiting ten days for his cheque and then sent one that could not be cashed immediately, they, on the same afternoon that they sent this crossed cheque, attempted to levy distress for rates upon Mr. Green's premises. Mr. Green was perfectly willing to pay these rates out of the money when he received it. What has the Council to say for itself?

In our last issue, and in our paragraph upon "The Finance Bill and Appeals," we referred to "that eminent solicitor Mr. Edwin Freshwater"; it should, of course, have been "Freshfield."

LEGAL ANSWERS.

TRUSTEE FUNDS.—H. K. (Hornsey).—No, you are limited to certain specific investments, and, if you go beyond them you lay yourself open to very serious consequences. We understand your desire to get a higher rate of interest in the case of an estate too small to support the beneficiary if investments are limited to trustee stocks, but you, as a trustee, have nothing to do with that.

CHILDREN IN DRINKING BAR.—J. W. W.—In our opinion, a bar for the sale of drink erected in a temporary shed would come under the Children Act, so as to make it an offence to take children there.

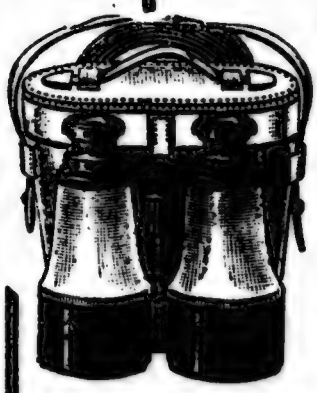
SUGAR FROM BEETROOT.—A. P.—There is no law against growing beetroot, and the reason why sugar is not made from it in this country is that we can buy it already made cheaper from abroad.

TENANCY CONDITIONS AS TO FITTINGS.—J. H. (Edinburgh).—As you took possession of the premises with the dresser, you must restore it as you found it, unless you can show that the owner consented to its destruction. If it was on the premises when you gave up possession, you are only liable for the cost of replacing it.

INSTRUCTION IN NURSING.—CANDIDUS.—There is nothing to prevent any person giving instruction to others in the art of nursing. It does not come under the Medical Acts.

TITHE REDEMPTION (Kent).—You should ascertain from the redemption deed what the actual rate of redemption was. Rates are not payable by any person after he has ceased to own tithes, and the demand on you seems to be a mistake.

THREE YEARS' AGREEMENT.—N. G.—Unless you have agreed to stay beyond the original term, your tenancy will expire without any notice at the end of the three years.



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WFW .	116	10	0
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WC . .	96	15	0
GL . .	88	10	0
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WJG .	107	10	1
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PC .	83	5	0
RSM .	80	16	0
WJG .	242	10	0
CGB .	119	0	0
WC . .	124	10	0
AB . .	82	10	0
WC . .	106	0	0
SHOL .	100	0	0
WJG .	84	0	0
WC . .	277	10	0
WT . .	86	0	0
CFP .	104	14	0
GHH .	245	0	0
D . .	100	0	0
SFF .	99	10	0
SG . .	80	0	0
GHG .	131	0	0
TWP .	100	0	0
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GRL .	100	0	0
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SPE .	130	0	0
WC . .	152	17	9
WTW .	91	10	0
GSP .	80	0	0
OMW .	152	0	0
Mrs. EMS	90	0	0
RGF .	100	0	0
RON .	90	0	0
SAR .	107	9	2
LPE .	187	0	0
WC . .	175	0	0
AOA .	130	0	0
HV . .	121	0	0
WJG .	261	5	0
MC . .	187	0	0
SMJ .	140	0	0
WC . .	180	0	0
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JOHN BULL (third notice), 24th July, 1909; "The National Share Exchange plays fair."

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By WALTER MOORE.

IX.—LIEUTEN NT SHACKLETON.

In anticipation of a cold reception, I borrowed a friend's motor furs and made my way to the residence of the great Antarctic explorer. To my surprise the intrepid traveller received me affably, and expressed his willingness to answer—for a consideration—any question I cared to put to him. "It is not customary to pay the subjects of interviews published in JOHN BULL," I said. "The honour of being mentioned in those pages is deemed a more than sufficient remuneration."

"Well, I suppose it is," returned the Lieutenant, slowly; "but I am getting such thumping fees for my lectures that every time I open my mouth I expect guineas to drop into it."

"You expected to reach the South Pole?" I responded; "but you didn't."

"Expected to reach the South Pole!" laughed the explorer, "not much. I know my book better than that. The South Pole has got to last me my lifetime. It's good for at least another half-a-dozen expeditions, I hope."

"Then you are in no hurry to attain your object?" I said, in some surprise.

"My object is to do myself a bit of good," returned Mr. Shackleton, emphatically. "I'm not such a fool as to kill the goose that lays golden eggs in the shape of remunerative lecturing tours and books which will sell by the thousand. I reckon that half-a-dozen further expeditions, each carefully calculated to advance between twenty and thirty miles nearer to the South Pole, will provide me with a comfortable old age."

"But," I protested, "the public are under the impression that your purpose in penetrating to the perilous, petrified purlieus of the Pole is purely scientific curiosity. They cannot understand, otherwise, how you can bring yourself to leave a charming wife and a young family for an indefinite period, risking your life for an object which, when achieved, will not be of the slightest service to humanity."

"I candidly admit that the discovery of the South Pole will be of no material benefit to the people," responded Lieutenant Shackleton; "but the expeditions amuse and interest them, and help to sell the illustrated papers."

"But how do your comrades come off?" I continued; "who share your privations, run the same risks, endure the same exile from home and civilisation. Do *they* go up and down the country lecturing? Do *they* write exciting books and earn large royalties?"

Lieutenant Shackleton smiled. "They're looked after all right. Don't worry," he said.

"I hope they are," I returned. "They deserve to be. They share the knocks, but get very few of the halfpence."

"I'm beginning to think you're a bit too enquiring," remarked Mr. Shackleton, with a change of countenance. "The public seem to be satisfied with what I've done. In fact, they've put me on a sort of pedestal, dining me, congratulating me, illuminated-addressing me, enticing me to open bazaars, paying me lavishly for lectures, and ordering thousands of copies of my forthcoming book in advance. Yet here you come along raising all these disagreeable points, and asking all these rude questions. What, in the name of a hot place, is it to do with you?"

"Mr. Shackleton—or, to be more correct, shall I say Lieutenant?—" I replied, "the public, as you very well know, is easily gulled, easily excited; its enthusiasm is easily aroused. Nowadays it is prone to make heroes on the least excuse. Witness the recent apotheosis of Binns, the Marconi operator. I desire to protect the public from their most conspicuous weakness. The paper on whose behalf I am running the risk of interviewing you, desires to bring back something like sanity to the public mind. The people lose sight of the utter uselessness of South Polar exploration in the glamour which surrounds the adventurous explorer. If you conscientiously believe that the discovery of the South Pole will benefit anyone besides yourself, well and good. If not, don't pose as anything but a man who is prepared to run certain calculated risks for a possible monetary return—like a parachutist, or a tank-diver at a music-hall."

"Here, get out," said Mr. Shackleton, rising.

Luckily, a taxicab was passing at the moment.

". . . . . and I find that the smoking of a pipe of

CHAIRMAN

teaches a philosophy that is well worth knowing. Its fine qualities have a pleasing and soothing effect, minimising the little troubles and difficulties of life. It never obtrudes and it never palls, but week in and week out is the one tobacco that gives to most men the greatest pleasure in smoking—a pleasure which only the right tobacco for their palate can give. It is cool—always cool—and burns evenly to the last shred with a rich and pleasing aroma. . . . . "

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is the same tobacco milder, and

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the same, but fuller flavoured.

Most tobacconists sell them at 6d. per oz. in 1 and 2 oz. packets, and ¼ and ½ lb. tins.

R. J. LEA, Manchester.

Y4

"CANADIAN EMIGRANTS, BEWARE!"

[What Canadians think of Englishmen.]

A Montreal correspondent, an Englishman, writing from that city, under date June 30th last, directs our attention to certain statements that are to be found in the *Montreal Herald* of June 26th.

Itseems that a well-known Montreal business man was recently asked by an English firm, with whom he had business relations, to try and place a young Englishman who wished to emigrate to Canada. The young man was reported as being of excellent character, and willing to turn his hand to anything that would give him a decent living. The Montreal firm wrote to a firm in Calgary, with whom they were doing business, and asked what opportunity there was in or about Calgary for the young man. The Calgary firm's reply is as below. It sheds much light on the view of Englishmen obtaining employment in the West, and explains the wherefore of the "No Englishmen need apply" formula. The letter is as follows:—

Calgary, June 18th, 1909.

Dear Sir,—In answer to yours, *re* Mr. ——, who was coming from the Old Country out West and for whom you wish us to secure a position.

We beg to advise that it has been impossible for us to get a line of any kind of a position which might suit Mr. —— other than manual labour, the chief reason being the reputation which the average Englishman has made for himself in this Western Country as *the man of absolutely no resource whatever in making his own living.*

The writer has personally written at least a dozen letters to different men in and around Calgary, and the only encouragement he can secure is that if Mr. —— comes out here, anyway, and looks to be a young fellow who would work if he got a chance, they would consider giving him a chance on our recommendation.

As you are aware, about the only outside work which a man can get in this part of the country is on a ranch or a farm, or else at manual labour, and the latter is not a very gentle occupation in this country, where there are so many foreigners on this kind of work. We would not think that Mr. —— would care to take a position of this kind.

Mr. B. stated that if Mr. —— came out here, he would give him a chance on some of his camps, but that he would not promise to do so until he saw the man, as he has been disappointed so often in cases of this kind.

We would suggest that Mr. —— come out here, provided he would have enough cash to keep him for say a month or six weeks, in case nothing turned up, and we will assure you that we will do all we possibly can to locate him in some decent occupation where he would be treated right, and where he would have a chance to make enough to keep himself.

We regret very much that this is the best we can do but *if he was of any other nationality than an Englishman, the prospects here would be more encouraging.* However, we shall be only too glad to do what we can if he lands in our city.

JIM CROW AND THE IRISH.

Our Jim has got into terrible trouble with the Irish. We can only refer them to the notice at the head of all his articles, to the effect that he is our Licensed Crank, and that we accept no responsibility for either his opinions or his life. It is as well that we do not, for, apparently, he is about to pay the penalty for his numerous crimes. Here is his epitaph, sent us by a Hibernian reader:—

EPITAPH ON JIM CROW.

Beneath this clay heap, in some dirty old clothes,
Jim Crow, with his bottle, is lying;
His "bonded" old "spirit," as everyone knows,
Through some *lower region* is flying.
He was wealthy in guilt in his earthly career,
And his honesty wasn't too strong;
And his brain-case lay dormant when stupid with beer,
And *lies* were his burden of song.
Thank heaven he's dead—it is such a relief—
Now he's *Judas Iscariot's* fireman-in chief!

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Membership already a quarter of a million.

Buy Whisky direct —and save the extra duty

By purchasing your whisky from us (the producers) you save the retailer's profit. This profit amounts to more than the extra duty imposed by the Budget. And you obtain a really fine, time-mellowed Scotch whisky—every drop guaranteed to be more than the age stated on the bottle.
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I enclose remittance, value ....., for which please send me.....bottles of your Specially Selected Fully Guaranteed 6 years old Scotch Whisky on condition that if it is not the finest whisky I have ever tasted at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded.
J.B., 31/7/09.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

"IN THE AIR."

NOTES ON AVIATION.

By W. PARKER.

The Channel Flight.

The Channel has at last been conquered by M. Bleriot in his well-named "Mascot." The distance from Calais to Dover is twenty-one miles in a straight line, and the time occupied was variously estimated at between twenty-five to thirty-five minutes. The amount of wind friction caused by car, machinery, etc., was very great, and the figures mean a very high and effective screw rendition. Longitudinal stability is realised. The whole experiment has been watched with eager curiosity from both sides of the Channel, and will, at least, have the effect of dissipating our apathy towards airships as engines of national defence. Poor Latham, we are told, returned to Sangatte in tears.

A Belgian Dirigible.

The first trials of the dirigible *Belgique* at Brussels were highly satisfactory. The envelope is 78 metres in length with a total cubic metre capacity of 6,500. It is driven by two "Pipe" motors of 145-h.p., each weighing 580 kilos., which seem to have given excellent results. The stability of the machine on its first trial was very noticeable, and the descent was made with great precision within a hundred yards of its shed, after maintaining a flight of over half-an-hour at an altitude of 1,000 ft.

The French Aero Show.

The International Aero Show, to be held at the Grand Palais, Paris, in September and October next, has now got all the official patronage it can possibly require, and should turn out a great success for the Aerial Independants who number most of the practical aviators of the day in their ranks. If they can throw the same energy into the management as was exhibited at the Aero Salon last December, they will have patronage enough and to spare. High prices for stands and locations are not to be thought of yet in connection with aero shows, since the public are not at present sufficiently interested in the machines *per se* apart from their performances in the hands of their aviators. There was more interest taken in the rough piece of wood and canvas shown under Wilbur Wright's name last December than in all the superfine work of the Antoinette, Bleriot, Pelterie, or any of the French firms combined, though from a constructional standpoint the first-named was altogether negligable. The aeroplane that has actually flown is invested with a sort of magic just yet. What it has done, not what it can do, is what the public want to see. If we had had a few more of the kind at Olympia last March, we should not have been obliged to close the doors on a financial loss, and no doubt next September we shall rush over to see the veritable machines on which Farman, Bleriot, Latham, Pelterie, and others have taken their seats and flown into the circumambient blue, while the newest improved model in all its show splendour will leave us cold. The personal equation is still supreme, and it may be taken as an axiom that the drawing-power of any aeroplane as such increases only as the square root of the popularity of its pilot. Even Mr. Fred Lanchester will not dispute the accuracy of the formula, and it may be recommended to all promoters of aerial shows. The value of the aeroplane itself, apart from the personal co-efficient, may be taken as '001, or possibly less. Where are our pilots to be found—when the time comes?

TRADE NOTE.

The average person often feels run down about this period of the year. The ever-changing climatic conditions disestablish the system and this year have made very heavy calls upon one's reserve of strength, consequently the languid feeling and debility is found in almost every household. In such a case one turns readily to anything that can tone you up, and a most beneficial effect is given by "Rocla," the Natural Tonic Water. It is pure snow water which filters through Manganese rocks, and being free from any artificial manufacture whatever becomes, as is claimed for it, a Natural Tonic Water. The water has been well known in Italy for over 125 years. The English Depot is at 69, Edgware Road, London, W. Small sample bottles can be had from that address at 7d. each.

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If you have money to invest, write for particulars, post free on application.

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for light frocks, summer blouses, seaside suits. If you wish to save your pocket, look up last year's things that only want cleaning to make them almost as good as new. We can clean them perfectly by the dry process and return them to you in a few days fresh and ready for immediate wear. Write to-day for Price List and the address of our nearest branch or agency—or send your orders direct and we will pay carriage one way.

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THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Two Little Vagabonds."

Not since the days when sympathetic hearts sobbed piteously for the sorrows and sufferings of poor little "Joe" in Charles Dickens' "Bleak House," as played by Jennie Lee, has any character of squalid boy life been more wonderfully understood than the character of that ragged young consumptive urchin "Wally," as now acted by Miss Beryl Mercer at the Lyceum Theatre, who surely has the fire of genius in her veins to give two such vivid and distinctive pictures of "life as it is," the one as the semi-drunken old woman, sitting on the lonely Thames Embankment seat in Cicely Hamilton's play "Diana of Dobson's" a short time ago, and now painting in colours so true and forcible the love, the tenderness, and the self-sacrifice in Pierre Decourcelle's intensely human and stirring melodrama of the hero-child, "Wally."

"Les Deux Gosses" is so fine a drama, so strong and pathetic a story that its characters are almost actor-proof; but the lesson that is taught by these two little nippers—the one a child of gentle birth, the other a "mere nobody's kid," yet both devoted in purest love to each other—must appeal to every sympathetic chord in human nature.

When "The Two Little Vagabonds"—so admirably done into English by George R. Sims and Arthur Shirley—was first produced at the Princess's in 1896 Miss Geraldine Oliffe and Mr. Ernest Leicester played Mr. and Mrs. Thornton. Now the husband and wife are entrusted to Miss Frances Dillon, who does not seem to somehow grip the part with the deep, maternal fervour it requires, and Mr. Frederick Ross, who, again, is not suited to the character of George Thornton. Miss Eva Lumley is quite good in the "showy" performance of "Dick," the other little vagabond; and such a favourite as Mr. Eric Mayne plays the small part of Captain Darville, and is greeted with a wealth of applause that proves his popularity at the Lyceum Theatre.

But it is Miss Beryl Mercer who is the real and most artistic success in the revival of Pierre Decourcelle's drama, which, however, has to be played for all it is worth, otherwise the seams and joins that occur in most melodramas are made evident and completely destroy the illusion.

But it is no use trying to act a great drama of human life in a modern parlour manner; the whole thing becomes unreal and trivial at once. Where would Sarah Bernhardt's plays have been, I wonder, if she had just toddled through them and just spoken her lines?

"La Femme X——."

Melodrama has come romping in with a vengeance, and the once winning horse "Problem" is left grinning sickly at the post.

I am anxious to know the fate of "La Femme X——," the first tragedy that Bisson, the celebrated French comedy author, has, I believe, ever written.

When I saw the play at the Porte St. Martin in Paris last Christmas time, I was wondering who would step into Jane Hading's shoes as the heroine when the piece ws adapted for England. First of all Mrs. Patrick Campbell was suggested, and now Charles Frohman has decided to entrust Lena Ashwell with the drug-drinking lady, who, after leaving her husband and child, and being refused a reconciliation, drifts gradually lower and lower on the downward path, commits murder, and finds in the wonderful court scene that she is being defended by her own son.

I confess as it was acted in France I experienced a "frisson" at this pathetic moment that I shall not forget. Jane Hading's cry when she heard her boy's name—for she had not recognised him before this moment— was pitiable and heart-rending in the extreme.

John Raphael has done Bisson's play into English, and the last act with its long death scene is left entirely out, so I hear. The character of the father is magnificent, and the son's pleading in court for his mother one of the finest and most emotional speeches ever written; but these people have to be acted—they have to be acted; if a false note is struck the whole thing will tumble to the ground; biff!

A True Story.

At last Thursday's investiture at Buckingham Palace, a newly-made knight was so dreadfully nervous that it was with great difficulty he summoned up courage to approach His Majesty, begging most earnestly to be given "gas" before going through the trying ordeal. What an original idea—receiving a knighthood under the influence of an anæsthetic. It's rather funny, though, isn't it, and if I told you who it was you'd think it still more droll.

There is a delicious crispness, a new flavour—and something altogether different about Pat-a-cake. Nothing but the best is used in their making. You must have Pat-a-cake

PEEK, FREAN
who make delicious Biscuits

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Matching a Gamp.

It wants a little courage to be the first person to go out with one of the long-handled parasols—the old "en-tout-cas"—when they come into fashion again, as they are certainly trying to do now. Even more it wants a little skill in handling them to the best advantage, and in living up to them generally. Nobody ought really to be permitted to carry such a thing wearing a small or frumpy hat, and fancy such a slender, stately, staff-like affair accompanying a tramp, a trot, or a waddle! People who go in for them must certainly learn to be dignified, taking, say, Madame du Barri as a model. Also these elongated gamps should be held out away from the person, like a shepherd's crook, or a Bishop's pastoral staff; and they utterly insist upon a high-held chin, a well-poised figure, and gracefully-placed feet. A little occasional flourish would also add very considerably to their effect, if one dared. Incidentally, a few lessons from the drum-major of one of the crack Highland regiments might come in handy. Ingratiating drum-majors, please apply!

Absent Goddesses.

How funny it is that even the nicest women will sometimes fall into one of the feeblest of feminine pettinesses and describe to you, with shining enthusiasm, some lovely being who is the possessor of infinite perfections—smart frocks, golden hair, blue eyes, and all the virtues—but whom, by some strange law of circumstance, you are never, somehow, permitted to meet. It is such a common old trick that one often wonders that there are still people found to be taken in by it. However, it may comfort the girl who is to reflect upon its real inferences and rejoice, once and for all.

For it is, purely and simply, inverted compliment. For instance, if a gorgeous beauty—in some distant retreat—is so described to you, reflect with absolute certainty that the word-painter considers you at least on the road to being beautiful. If someone, notably absent, is raved about as brilliantly clever, soothe yourself by this token that you yourself are becoming dangerous in that particular line. If aureoled saints are flaunted at you as existing round the corner, know that you have lately been very sweet; or if smart women, go and pat your dressmaker on the back! I don't want to teach anyone personal vanity, but I do want to protect harmless and charming people from the attacks of the absurd of their own sex. Of course, a gorgeous retort is to ask earnestly, and insistently, and persistently, for a letter of introduction to the shrouded divinity. If this is done untiringly, and with a yearning expression, at every possible meeting, social or serious, there comes a happy moment when the "Unknown Goddess" retires finally to Olympus and is heard of no more. Meanwhile, hug yourself that you have found your own *metier*.

Tabby Lunches.

This season, more than ever before, has the ladies' or "tabby" lunch been in vogue, and one goes on wondering why? There is something so wierdly unexplainable in the idea of twenty-five or thirty women, married and unmarried, deliberately assembling at 2.45 on a hot July day, at the house of one who has packed off her terrified husband, and going solidly through a seven or eight course lunch, talking hard! In vain I have sat silent at these affairs and tried to see some *raison d'être* for their institution, beyond the fact that they are an American fashion. Boasting, by inference or otherwise, seems to form a large part of the entertainment, but then you can boast anywhere; you do not need to eat an aldermanic meal with the plethoric of your own sex to do that. Elaborate criticism of, or showing off of, clothes is gaily gone in for, with lorgnettes freely applied; but to this pastime the same answer suffices. I think, with sorrow, that the answer must be scandal; for some that one has served up at these reunions is fearfully highly spiced—far too much so for the average decent man's hearing. Sometimes there is something amost gruesome in the feverish attempts of certain old and noisy gourmands at these feasts to produce the very last tit-bit in tittle-tattle, *le dernier cri* in degrading detail. Sweeter womanhood veils its face, and one listens, sometimes, for the angel's tears over the chatter and the clatter.

Saint's Privileges.

I heard a remark at such an affair recently which might possibly serve, though, to bring back the seraphic smiles. The talk had turned on the present immovable refusal of the Church to re-marry divorced persons in a church. A society woman said pathetically, "Of course one can understand in the East End and those low places that the bishops are obliged to draw the line. But in a *good* neighbourhood, where almost everybody is like that, the clergy ought to have special permission to re-marry divorced persons." It sounded such a very good neighbourhood, somehow!

What is your Number?

See page iii of cover.

A WORD OF PRAISE.

A VISIT TO THE SHOWROOMS OF THE MIDLAND FURNISHING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE GREATEST CREDIT FURNISHERS IN LONDON.

A day or two ago we paid, by special invitation of the managing director, a visit to the magnificent showrooms of the Midland Furnishing Company, Limited, of Southampton-row, Holborn. These premises, already the handsomest in the furnishing trade, have just been redecorated throughout. Neither money nor time have been spared in order to make the showrooms as attractive as possible. Their celebrated model flats at £50, £100, £200, and £500 have been refurnished in a wonderful way. It has always been the firm's boast that better value can be obtained from them than from anyone else, and, seeing these specimen homes, which are only samples of what may be done for the various stated sums, we can quite understand their claim—nay, more than that, we can heartily endorse it. Beside these model flats they now show some magnificent specimen rooms, ranging in price from 12 to 300 guineas. At the same time they have added greatly to their stock of all kinds and styles of furniture, and some of the reproductions of old styles that were shown to us were more than beautiful. We can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that at no other house advertising the gradual payment system can such elegant furniture be bought, nor does any other house charge such moderate prices. This is really not to be wondered at when one takes into consideration that the firm manufactures most of their goods themselves.

While we are speaking of the Midland Furnishing Company, perhaps it would not be out of place to give a word of praise to their business methods. They are beyond reproach. No scandal or suspicion of sharp dealing has ever been associated with their name.

Their gradual payment system is simplicity itself. You select your goods—everything is marked in plain figures—and you can extend your payments over one, two, three, or more years without any extra charge whatsoever. If you live too far away to make a personal selection, write for their free guide and catalogue, and select from that. They ask you for no deposit, and under no circumstances is any interest added.

If you live in the country, but prefer to come to town and select personally, the firm pay your fare upon any order of £30 worth and upwards.

They plan and lay carpets and linos free, and pack and deliver goods without charge. Should you prefer to pay cash, they allow you 5 per cent. discount.

Do not forget to write for their free guide and catalogue, and whatever you do don't forget their address—15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C. Call and look round; say John Bull sent you. They will be delighted to show you anything you like without any obligation to buy.

THE SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, THE 3rd OF AUGUST.

MISSOURI TRUST

(For 3 Months, £2 for Every 1,000 Dols.).

The profit in three months is estimated at £45 for every £2 invested, which should mean that one will have returned £45 plus £2, equal to £47.

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, we invite you to send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable for the general public.

Nothing else is expected of you than to recommend us to the circle of your acquaintances after the success has been completely proven, that means not before you have received from us $47 on your $2 invested.

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GERSON HAMSON & CO., LIMITED, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: ESPONJAS, LONDON.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR 1909.

INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN MAGNATE.

We dare say we are experts in Yankees (American Railways) and that we know everything about them that can be known. We dare say that we understand the entire Wall Street System better than any one of our competitors, and very often have an occasion to feel that in 3 months we could bring you further than you can get yourself in 3 years.

Nowadays almost everybody has a friend who is a dealer or broker in Stocks and Shares, so we cannot expect that you should give us the preference, unless we actually prove to you that we are often sooner and better informed than other firms. In the end the public will transact their business where the best profits are to be gained and the best conditions to be obtained.

We shall prove to you that our advices are valuable.

A Trust in Missouris: It is our intention to possess in 1909 the largest amount of clients that ever a stockbroker or dealer could boast of, and we will realise this fact through our Missouri Trust. We will force you to a certain degree, at least once, to give us an order and to form your own opinion about our method of dealing and the capacities of our correspondent.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

"Don't be a Bear on America," J. Pierpont Morgan said. "That man who is, goes broke."

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, we proclaim this fact: Send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable.

OUR PROPOSITION.

A Trust in Missouris (For every Thousand Dollars you must send £2—and the estimated profit is £45—in 3 months.)

Condition 1st. All Missouri shares are opened at the London closing price of Tuesday, the 3rd of August, which quotations are controlled by almost every English paper (Globe, Daily Telegraph, Financial News, Financial Times, &c., &c.). Suppose the closing price in London should be 42¼—42¾, then is the buying price 42¾ nett, which means naturally without you paying any further commission or other expenses. If you sell or buy according to tape prices and yet have to pay commission you are paying too much.

A Daily Newspaper, from which you are able to ascertain these prices exactly, is sent you free of charge with every order.

2nd. All transactions will be closed the same date at London closing price, i.e., three months after the Trust opens, i.e., Wednesday, 3rd November, 1909, and all profits, without any limit, will be returned with the two pounds of your investment.

3rd. If on Wednesday, 3rd November, 1909, there would have been no profit made, the transaction will be kept open for the next 3 months, i.e., Thursday, 3rd February, 1910, without any further margin. We hope it is now quite clear to you that the worst that can happen, is that the closing quotation in London on 3rd February, 1910, is 1 per cent. or more under the quotation of 3rd August, 1909, and then, and only then, would your loss be £2, and under no circumstances more than two pounds.

4th. Every buyer receives a stamped contract informing the purchaser that if necessary we keep the account open for 6 months, and that the entire responsibility of the buyer is limited to the £2 invested.

OUR CORRESPONDENT PREDICTS:

A boom in Yankees in 1909, and quotations for the different shares never surpassed. Please keep in mind that the same correspondent, after an interview with one of the best-known American financiers, has sent to our clients, on December 11th, 1908, the following telegram: "Advise immediate purchase Chesapeake Common. Do not delay until after Christmas, but follow our advice at once and you will continue to deal with us. Margin returned with profit; inside information in hand." Chesapeake were at that time 58¼ and are now 78¼, so those who have followed our advice will not have forgotten this.

We are convinced that through our Missouri Trust we will enlist and retain you as one of our clients.

On Tuesday, 3rd August the Subscription will be closed. If you wish to become a participant in the trust please send by return post the attached application form, with the name and address and the amount of Two Pounds to the following address:—

GERSON HAMSON & CO., Limited, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

We have found our way to open Trusts in all Yankee shares. On the same conditions as above, you can subscribe in the following Trusts:

For every 1,000 dols.		For every 1,000 dols.		For every 1,000 dols.		For every 1,000 dols.	
CHESAPEAKE	£2	ONTARIO	£2	PENNSYLVANIAS	£4	CANADIANS	£4
DENVERS	£2	SOUTHERNS	£2	READINGS	£4	CHICAGO MILWAUKEES	£6
ERIES	£2	STEEL COMMON	£2	SOUTHERN PAC.	£4	ILLINOIS CENTRAL	£6
MISSOURIS	£2	ATCHISONS	£4	UNION PACS.	£4	LOUISVILLES	£6
NORFOLK	£2	BALTIMORE AND OHIO	£4	STEEL PREF.	£4	NEW YORK CENTRAL	£6

The money to be remitted is mentioned behind each share. If you do not subscribe in the Missouri Trust, please change the application form accordingly.

CHAT ON 'CHANGE.

This book, compiled by a leading financial expert, will be sent gratis and post free to every one subscribing in one or more of the Trust.

It is a complete handbook and guide for the use of those who wish to study the various methods of Stock Exchange operations.

A careful perusal of these pages will enable the reader to thoroughly grasp the different methods in which to open an account.

Being written in plain and easy language, it can be readily understood by everybody.

USE THIS FORM. J.B.

I buy thousand dollars Missouri, Kansas and Texas Common Shares on the London closing price of Tuesday, the 3rd day of August and further on the conditions as mentioned in your advertisement, for which I enclose £3, with the understanding that my entire risk is limited to this amount.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

If you will invest to a larger amount, please make the form out accordingly. For instance: If you wish to make out the form for 5,000 dols., you must remit £10. You can also REMIT BY POSTAL ORDER OR CHEQUE.

MORE of these forms can be obtained by application to our offices or by writing.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Is the new German Chancellor the Bethmann?
Isn't the Budget a striking one, since it hits so many classes?
Do the public like their Fry warmed up?
Will the policeman's "V.C." be made of copper?
Aren't the Paddington Guardians getting too Pop'lar?
Do they call him "Bobs" because he wants us all to "take the shilling"?
Has the Admiralty still a Press-gang?
Will the Censorship Committee co-opt Bernard Shaw?
Has the Primate ever pronounced "Cantuar" by syllables?
Does a Suffragette, after being fired more than once, become re-fined?
Why not call it a Pro-test Team?
What does Rear-Admiral Bacon think of "The pen is mightier than the sword"?
Was Mr. Latham in "soar Straits" when picked up?
Does the employment by Lloyd George of seven secretaries prove that his work is all write?
Isn't Fleet Street—judging by the contents of the papers recently—well-named?
Won't fasting tactics cause the Suffragettes to lose weight?
Is the German army learning football in view of a scrimmage?
Were Lord Charles Beresford's "testimonials" entirely unsolicited?
Will the Naval Pageant silence the talk about scare-ships?
Is "A-cad-demme" the correct way to pronounce it?

MOTTO FOR DISAFFECTED MINERS: "Strike while the weather's hot."

The Poetry Recital Society, which proposes to read poetry aloud to prisoners, ought to know that torture is no longer allowed.

"We do not expect any election before March," says the *British Weekly*. And then it *will* be "March!"

The *Lady* says that girls can be trusted to find games for themselves. As a last resource they can always make game of the men.

At Columbus, Kentucky, five brothers led five sisters simultaneously to the altar, and the five best men were brothers, and the five bridesmaids all sisters. A regular fives court.

"I will try to state the facts baldly," writes G. Bernard Shaw to *The Times*. We advise him to keep his hair on.

"The dressmakers seem to have gone sash mad," says *M.A.P.* But every woman likes a beau at her waist.

"How Our Navy is Run," is the title of a recent publication. Down mostly.

Headline: £924 paid for ten chairs. Nothing new. An M.P. often pays much more for one seat.

Chickens are now plucked by an electric fan. We have seen them eaten by electric light.

We read that Dr. Grace never made a pair of "spectacles." But we have often heard of grace before a duck.

Some tennis-courts have been laid out in America on land valued at 200,000 dols. Who'll stand the racquet?

We have lately had a visit from some Turkish M.P's. What delight!

A writer complains of his untruthful barometer. Hang it.

Excited Cotton Market. Over 1,000,000 bales shifted. Were many dealers stumped?

Mr. Wallace, K.C.: "We all have to live out of our income." We always thought most people had to live within it.

"So far, we have only scratched the wealth of New South Wales," declares Admiral Rawson. How many will be itching to scratch deeper.

We are told that over four thousand applications were received last year for fancy names for margarine. Trade is evidently ingreasing.

"Genius as often as not lies in concealing genius," we read. There must be more about than we thought.

The Carnarvonshire education authority have decided to give cookery lessons for boys. We wonder how the experiment will pan out?

Miss Violet Charlesworth is now said to be suffering from swelled *neck*. Her complaint seems to have spread downwards.

"Onions Lead to a Divorce Suit," we read. A strong clue.

A young woman named Schmidt, whose hat-pin injured a man's eye, has offered to marry him. Evidently schmidtten.

An American journal, an edition of which was recently printed in a balloon, can now truthfully say that the paper has gone up.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS:—
To remove stains from linen.—Clip round the stain with a sharp pair of scissors, and the mark will easily drop out.
A good kid-reviver.—A ha'penny cane.
To mark handkerchiefs.—Use them for a pen-wiper for a day or two.
To make gooseberry tart.—Put no sugar in.

A Magnificent Story of a Great Fight.

This extract from Conan Doyle's latest story shows, in some small measure, the exciting nature of the narrative and the intensely vivid manner of its relation.

'THE LORD OF FALCONBRIDGE'
BY
A. CONAN DOYLE.

This legend of the ring deals in a dramatic style with the story of a woman's love and hate, and the resulting fight. Conan Doyle has written stories of the ring before, but never a story such as this.

He was accustomed now to his opponent's rushing tactics, and he was ready for them. The fourth round was the same as to attack, but it was very different in defence. Up to now the young man had given way and been fought down. This time he stood his ground. As his opponent rushed in he met him with a tremendous straight hit from his left hand, delivered with the full force of his body, and doubled in effect by the momentum of the charge. So stunning was the concussion that the pugilist himself recoiled from it across the grassy ring. The amateur staggered back and leaned his shoulder on a tree trunk, his hand up to his face.

"You'd best drop it," said Spring. "You'll get pepper if you don't."

The other gave an inarticulate curse, and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Come on!" said he.

PRICE 6d. The AUGUST Issue of the READY JULY 30th.

STRAND MAGAZINE

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc., which will be duly acknowledged.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* **when stamped, addressed envelopes are sent for the purpose.** ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

JOHN BULL LEAGUE SONG.—In reply to many correspondents, the musical score we require for this song is for orchestral accompaniment. We have now added a chorus, and have slightly recast the setting of the words, which we shall publish in our next issue.

W. S. (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) says Mr. Gamble, the fireman, has *not* risen from the ranks. Is that so?

J. L. (Leicester) can't find the word crank in his dictionary, and wants us to take away Crow's licence. Meanwhile we have endorsed it. Turning to Johnson, we find that Serenius refers the word crank to the West Gothic *krangr*, bold, daring. According to Johnson himself, it means "healthy, sprightly, and it is still used in Kent for merry." More, in his "Song of the Soul," wrote, "I was a crank wit, a brisk young boy." And Howell said, "We use the Dutch word crank, in English, 'to be well-disposed.'" "Hurrah," says Crow.

R. B. (Glasgow) complains of the sufferings of retail tobacconists at the hands of the tobacco trust. He says, "If there is any trade making smaller profits than this one, I should like to hear of it."

A. V. A. (Tufnell Park).—Too bad! Why not lay your case before the War Office?

N. S. F. (Great Clacton) writes: "Did we attend to our own land and its cruelties, we should no longer have the time (or the impertinence) to send missionaries to convert the so-called heathen." The so-called heathen, however, are not notorious for their kirdness to animals.

J. P. (Commercial Road, E.) mentions the following railway fares: Fenchurch to Southend, 4s. 4d. return; Fenchurch to Dagenham, 1s. 3d. return; Dagenham to Southend, 2s. 1d. return; total, 3s. 4d. Another argument for State railways?

A. J. C. (City Road) says that the Patriotic Society is run solely by Jews, and the office is in the same building as the Miniature Rifle Company. But what of that?

F. C. B. (Faversham) wants to know if the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund are diverting money, subscribed by the public for a specific purpose, into other channels? *Query.*

E. L. B. (Portobello Road).—Do you know the one about a herring and a half?

T. C. (Newcastle) thinks servants ought to be treated more considerately. So they ought—and more often.

"DISGUSTED" complains of the shamelessness of bathers at Hove. But we can't all afford machines every day.

"A READER FROM No. 1" (Dalston) thinks the Tsar "*personally* approved of the atrocities committed in his name." But the Tsar has had great difficulties to contend with. Our verdict is "Not proven."

"HOYLAND" wants to know what are the "acknowledged professions." Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, ploughboy, apothecary, thief.

B. L. S. G. (Upper Norwood) sent 1s. 6d. to P. A. Schaefer and Co. (20, Bucklersbury) for their "Japanese floral decoration," which, he says, turned out to be "a twopenny packet of ordinary seeds." What says the noble Schaefer?

C. B. (Eastcheap).—We are all in favour of the free breakfast-table.

"THE REAL TRUTH" says "Vanity and greed are the real cause of German insolence." What about British "enterprise"?

M. F. (Bristol).—You are always in our thoughts. Join the League.

"NEMO" (Woolwich).—If thousands of private soldiers have become journalists, it does not say much for their intelligence. The King's shilling surely still exists as a phrase for enlistment. We will tell Crow that the Tommies are going to make him a subject for hospital treatment, but the Woolwich infants must try to keep their wool on.

W. H. G. (Liscard, Ches.).—You are correct in your interpretation of that particular fossil, but your expression is a bit crude, don't you think? We must certainly keep a keener eye on Crow.

"GLAD BULLITE" (Limerick) writes: "B. S., Jun. (Forest Gate), should really shut up for a long time, and that Englishman in Aberdeen should return to his native land. He talks rot."

B. S., JUN. (Forest Gate), sends us the following lines with an unnecessary assurance as to their originality:

> A small island still, its glory departed.
> Its soldiers have fought their last fight; 'neath the sod
> They are sleeping—weakness and sloth bring disaster,
> For that was the message of God.

This is almost worthy of Kipling.

"A TORY."—We follow your compliments, but not your complaints. Cheer up, and join the League.

E. G. C. (West Brompton).—You are like the Old Philadelphia Lady in the Paris *New York Herald*. If you buy an article (say a copy of JOHN BULL) for 6d., and sell it for 1s., your profit is naturally 100 per cent. We will gladly buy the difference.

Lockyer's

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Made from the finest direct imported Turkish Tobacco. They please the most fastidious taste and are fit to smoke, which is more than can be said of the ordinary kind now being offered to the public. They can be obtained from all High-class Tobacconists at 7/10 per 100, 4/2 50, 2/1 25.

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A. R. D. (Dublin) writes: "Getting into conversation with some fellow-countrymen in a bar this evening, all of whom were strangers to me, I jokingly introduced myself as Mr. James Crow. All I can remember now is 'Did you say Crow?' I am at present laid up. . ." This is an illustration of the danger of straying from the strait paths of veracity. If Crow had been there, the bar would have been begored (begorrah) with the scalps of the Paddies.

W. G. (London, S.W.) says sufferers from knock-out sales have themselves to blame, as the tricks are not difficult to detect.

T. P. (Coventry) wants a visit from Crow. But we have already sent him there.

E. H. (New York) says the number of unemployed out there is appalling. He encloses an advertisement of a "situation wanted" by "bottle baby." The unemployment must indeed be widespread.

D. L. (Belgium) was told out there that spare rifle parts are made for England in Belgian factories.

R. G. B. (Aldershot) sends a Tariff Reform leaflet and says, "for barefaced, impudent lying this is the worst I have ever seen." We fear he is too squeamish for political life.

A. T. P. (Merton) congratulates us on our "fairness to English Catholics."

"HERETIC" is sorry that we are defending Roman Catholicism, "a gigantic hellish political religious combination worse than the Italian Black Hand." "Surely," he writes, "you must be ignorant that it advocates murder. Are we to be governed by Italians? One would think so, by the Westminster Catholic procession, when hordes of foreign priests usurped English streets, and broke English laws, and for protesting against which I on that occasion was repeatedly struck and kicked. I am no Christian . . . Have the manliness to state whether or not you are on the side of a vile despotism." The answer is in the negative.

E. G. (Redhill).—It will be difficult to obtain your son's discharge from the Army without a payment.

P. G. (Hull) wants to know the salary of the secretary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

H. W. (Plaistow) says Tate's sugar factory employs very few Englishmen.

F. H. C. (Thornton Heath).—Always glad to hear of infallible methods of fortune-making. But we know nothing about a "honeymoon baby." It sounds premature.

D. C. wants a job abroad as railway siding manager, and asks where he can find advertisements thereof.

J. G. R. (Tottenham) says there is an artificial limb maker next to the Orthopædic Hospital. Why is that "unconscious humour"?

A. G. (Stamford Hill).—Alas! we cannot override Army regulations, however unjust.

T. F. H. (Ivy Lane).—The notice, "steam-roller working," need not have caused you so much surprise.

W. H. H. (Merthyr) asks about the "People's Common Sense Medical Adviser" and "The Complete Herbalist." Why worry?

A. T. B. (Gloucester).—Thanks, but we don't want to pay 10s. extra for a soiled portmanteau.

"COLORADO" says he works 99 hours a week as a tobacconist's assistant. He adds that "assistants want little here below, and generally get it."

E. P. (Malpas) sends us Sanger's programme with an item entitled "Nero, or the Sports of Ancient Rome." One of these sports is that of "allowing a real motor-car (laden with human freight) to run over" a human body. We always knew Nero was a chauffeur, but we were not aware that he was quite such an old sport as Sanger pretends.

R. H. G. (West Kensington).—We do not know how long it should take to lay 162 bricks, but 2½ minutes sounds quick even for a Yank.

WITH REFERENCE to the story which recently appeared in our columns, entitled "The Bounder," and purporting to be written by Mr. R. de L. Galvaner, the author's name should have been Barry Livingston, Mr. Galvaner having fraudulently appropriated Mr. Livingston's work.

"WHITEWASH" (Greenwich) says he is astonished at Mr. Soper's denial of giving notice of motion for the entire stoppage of the supply of tobacco to inmates. He says he was within a feet feet of Mr. Soper when that gentleman rose "with more haste than dignity and verbally gave notice of such motion." "Whitewash" thinks that our "just decision in No. 162 completely unbalanced the gentleman. Looking round for means of escape, he first attacked the Clerk's contention that verbal notice was sufficient. The Clerk quite upset his applecart by producing the Board's byelaws and the L.G.B. orders relative to the point, both scoring against Mr. Soper. He then turned on the exact wording of the notice of motion shown standing in his name, and it was only on the technical ground of it being found that his exact ungrammatical utterance had been transposed into King's English that the minutes relating to the matter were expunged."

"ZEBRA" (London) asks whether we can give him any information about "Mr. Sidney King, a Hyde Park orator, who goes by the name of 'the Derelicts' Friend, and who is in the habit of collecting money for 'homeless men.'" Perhaps some of our readers can enlighten us.

A. B. (India) protests against a chess column because some other feature would have to go—perhaps even Crow. And A. B. describes himself as a chess enthusiast, so we must bow to his decree.

G. L. H. (Leigh-on-Sea).—How can you say that the "*Continental* Tyre Company" poses as a British concern?

SEVERAL READERS have suggested a biscuit for an obvious printer's error in some copies of our last issue containing the advertisement of the Rubber Exploration Company, by which they were made to state that they deal in "hares," instead of shares. We are in a position, however, to state that the company does not under any circumstances deal in "wild cats."

"MUSTARD PLASTER" (Highbury) writes: "'Supper' (Piccadilly) must be a born wit and astronomer combined (rare qualities). He says 'a mirror,' probably the *D. M.* 'receives parallel rays from the sun. Why not a capital 'S'? Probably also from *The Star*, whose rays are infinitely more parallel. Speaking of reflection of heat from a parabolic mirror, let me add that upon a recent occasion whilst studying the Sunlar disc we afterwards discovered large ice-sickle on back of mirror. His mirror probably is cracked! Has 'Supper' joined the 'League'?" No, he is still at his brandy-breakfast.

T. R. D. (Weymouth) says that on the 16th or 17th July the 23th Company R.G.A. underwent their annual musketry course, but that the Colonel's servant, the C.O.'s servant, the Captain's servant and Subaltern's servant, together with the Pay Sergeant and his Clerk, were allowed to be "substituted by others," and asks, "what will Mr. Haldane think of this method of securing efficiency in the Army?"

F. K. (Dulwich) thinks the reference in our League Song to the curse of the Church and Clergy—hypocrisy—will offend many of our readers. But it applies only to those who have been thus afflicted, and is no reflection upon the sincere and genuine pastor.

"BUCK" (Glasgow).—Sporting tipsters, like everyone else, have their good and their bad times. Even Mr. Lotinga cannot always give winners.

S. B. (Chiswick) thinks "Men and Women, British *bred*, who their land's decadence *dread*" an improvement upon "Men and Women, British born, who their land's decadence mourn." But the members of the League will dread-naught.

"YORKSHIRE" points out that in our recent sketch, apropos Unclaimed Bank Balances, the Editor is holding the key of the lock in his left hand. But that was to leave his right hand free to knock down the man who was grabbing the spoil.

R. D. (Glasgow) and others award us one of our own biscuits for including in the list of "gentlemen" holding shares in the Wilkinson Sword Company two or three German ladies. It is, however, so difficult to distinguish the sex in German names.

P. S. G. (Wandsworth) describes "W. F. (Mortlake)," who recently complained of certain treatment at the Wandsworth Infirmary, as "the Mortlake Annanias." That seems to settle it!

W. H. H. (Merthyr Tydfil) thinks "the public service of JOHN BULL seems more apparent than real"—because we have not replied in these columns within a fortnight to an enquiry of no public interest. As several hundreds of letters from readers are received daily, it is obvious that we can answer but a small percentage of them in "Letter Bag." He should, of course, have sent a stamped addressed envelope for a postal reply. Will other readers please note? We may add that our answer to W. H. H.'s enquiry is that we know nothing of either of the firms he mentions.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

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Counsel: If they are the PENNA they are the BEST!
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Registrar. 133

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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.)

Medley.

Who are the owner and jockey so capitally caricatured in the Windsor poster?

Notice how nearly all the gentlemen trainers are Irishmen—*inter alia* Beatty, Gilpin, Dewhurst, Nugent and Persse.

There is a good cricket club at Chantilly, the members all being trainers and jockeys, and they are strong enough to be competing for the championship of France.

Your Majesty.

Apropos of the utter defeat of Your Majesty in the recent Princess of Wales and Eclipse Stakes, doubt has very naturally been thrown upon the statement that a large sum of money, varying from £20,000 to £40,000, had been offered for last year's Eclipse and St. Leger winner. I am able to say positively and authoritatively, however, that it is perfectly true that £35,000 was offered for the colt. The fact that he was not to be delivered until the *end* of this racing season tends to prove two things, emphatically,—firstly, that whether he won any of his rich engagements of the season made no financial difference to the would-be buyers, and that Mr. J. B. Joel has cast aside all idea of financial gain in refusing it. The owner of Your Majesty wrote me just prior to the Princess of Wales' Stakes that it was a very tempting offer, as if his horse got beaten this year he could not be worth the money, and yet if he remained unbeaten he still could not be worth very much more. He was afraid, nevertheless, that the Press would condemn him should he allow the horse to go out of the country for the sake of any sum of money. However, having decided to keep him, he equally expected that in the event of defeat he would be termed "a fool not to have sold him." On last week's running Your Majesty is not worth one third of the proffered £35,000.

Prophetic.

The Goodwood Handicap, already run, must influence what happens to-day (Thursday) and Friday. MUSTAPHA's running in the Stewards' Cup will obviously govern his chance for this afternoon's Drayton Handicap. Assuming his absence,

BLACKSTONE

—judged by all his running, especially that with Hayden at Sandown—must be in the race. The same direct line points to the advisability of trusting

PUTCHAMIN,

despite the Liverpool form in Friday's Chesterfield Cup. To-day's Cup can only be a comparative failure—and

CARROUSEL,

who stays well, should win.

At Alexandra Park, LADY ORMONDE has her usual big chance when "thrown in" the Municipal Handicap, whilst for Bank Holiday at Sandown, that "dog" DUTCH may win at last.

THE RACING STUD CODE
and great
DAILY 'DOUBLE' INDICATOR

Good to 1910. The Code keys through the "SPORTING LIFE," "SPORTING CHRONICLE," Highly praised by PUBLIC and the PRESS, including:
"LARRY LYNX," of the "People," "John Bull,"
"VANITY FAIR," "THE UMPIRE," "THE SPORTING LIFE," and "THE RACING WORLD," which says "'THE RACING STUD' have achieved a remarkable run of big race successes for years past."

This marvellous "Indicator" generally finds **TWO BIG WINNERS EACH DAY.** Simple, no calculations. Can be worked at home with **LEVEL STAKES** in shillings or pounds. No further expense or bother. The "Indicator" points them out daily. The following are "results" from Saturday, July 10th, to Friday, July 23rd.

	July 10th,	YELLOW SLAVE, 4-1 won.	MAGNIFY, 7-1 won.
	July 13th,	MARCZIO, 8-1 won.	ORE FILLY, 10-1 won.
	July 14th,	SANTA CASA, 100-8 won.	JOVIAL, 8-1 won.
	July 15th,	VIGILANCE, 6-1 won.	SYMBOLIC, 100-8 2nd.
	July 16th,	SHIEVELEY, 9-2 won.	THE MAJOR, 6-1 won.
Brave!	July 17th,	PEACH, 100-14 won.	CRUSADER, 6-1 won.
Brave!	July 19th,	ARCADIC, 5-1 won.	SMUGGLER, 5-1 won.
Brave!	July 20th,	EUDORUS, 8-1 won.	NEBULY, 5-1 won.
Brave!	July 21st,	CECIL FRAIL, 100-8 won.	ESPANITA, 4-1 won.
Brave!	July 22nd,	FAITHFUL DON, 5-1 won.	GERA, 4-1 won.
Brave!	July 23rd,	WELL DONE, 5-1 won.	FOND MEMORIES, 6-1 won.

"ONE OF MANY PATRONS" writes: "I only commenced on Saturday, July 17th, and with a few half-crowns won over £32 clear profit. It is a clever idea."

VANITY FAIR says:—"The greatest money-making inspiration of the age."

The Price of the **Code and Indicator is £10,** but **John Bull** sportsmen need only post **£1** and stamped address for same, and at the end of the season can, if they wish, send us a present out of their winnings. Very kindly keep the "Secrets" private.

THE RACING STUD SPECIAL, ready, as usual, Monday, containing **THREE BIG SURPRISES.** Post us 3/6, and stamped address for a copy, or order through W. H. SMITH & SON'S bookstalls. Last week, we gave **Faithful Don, 5-1; Gera, 4-1; L. Grace. ALL THREE WON.**

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"TADDY" GRAPNEL MIXTURE

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are the men who were once ill and weak, who were always nervous and trembling, and who never knew what it was to enjoy peaceful sleep through Neurasthenia, etc.

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"DAMAROIDS" are to be obtained at 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. per box, or the Special Extra Strong, 11s. per box, which take effect in a few minutes. Call or write, "J. B.," HYGIENIC STORES, LTD., 95, Charing Cross Road, London. Tel.: 13215 Central.

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Striking Pictures
OF
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TOGARDS will keep your toes from wearing through, and insure long wear for all kinds of stockings—silk, lisle or merino.

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"THE BOOK OF THE YEAR."

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The following claims have been received for the issue of June 12th:—

HUBERT LEMON, 147, Bridge Street West, Hockley, Birmingham. (No. 4943—12th June, 1909.)

GEO. W. HALL, 39, Sudbourne Road Brixton Hill, S.W. (No 110938—12th June, 1909.)

B. J. TROLLOPE, 208, Albert Road East Croydon. (No 273598—12th June, 1909.)

WILLIAM J. LEADER, 29, St. Stephen's Road, Enfield Wash, E. (No. 107069—12th June, 1909.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of June 26th:

7993; 8723; 23119; 29507; 30998; 37974; 42916; 43200; 57486; 67423; 73021; 82876; 87024; 93693; 98461; 102665; 103995; 118402; 121496; 126446; 130660; 140138; 143328; 156218; 161606 168917; 169413; 176714; 177210; 180994; 187498; 191490; 192060; 199690; 200186; 206634; 207130; 212610; 223595; 230085; 237829; 241986; 242482; 250474; 266153; 270573; 274102; 281240; 296256; 296752.

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED SEPTEMBER 4th (PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2nd).

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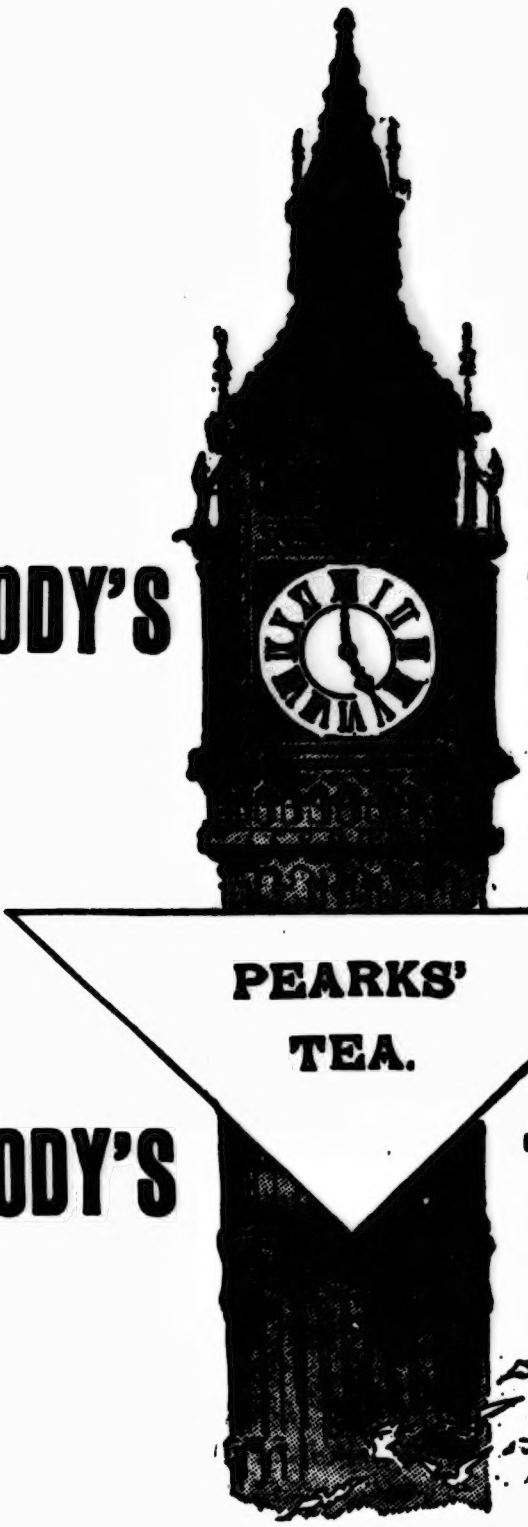

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